UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.12
27 July 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session for 1994

High-level segment

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 28 June 1994, at 3 p.m.

President:	Mr. BUTLER	(Australia)
later:	Mr. BOTEZ (Vice-President)	(Romania)
later:	Mr. BUTLER (President)	(Australia)

CONTENTS

AN AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AN AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Mr. LOEIS (Indonesia) said that, since the end of the cold war, issues of peace, security and development were increasingly recognized as indivisible. At the same time, the concept of development itself was evolving and there was increasing recognition that development must be human-centred and must be expanded to include political, social, economic, humanitarian and environmental dimensions. The changing global configuration had given the international community an opportunity to refocus its attention on stimulating economic growth and development and on eradicating poverty. Greater interdependence and integration together with rapid advances in technology, especially in the fields of communication, informatics and transportation, had made the need for an agenda for development more compelling than ever.

Despite the crucial need for a new global development policy, the United Nations had become disproportionately preoccupied with world security and humanitarian issues at the expense of development. The deliberations on an agenda for development were thus most timely.

In formulating such an agenda, however, the concept of development should be clearly defined. While there was no single definitive model of development that could be universally applied and accepted, there must be dominant models, such as an economic-growth model focusing on the market-oriented approach and a human-centred model which sought to improve the human condition by eradicating poverty, developing human resources, and satisfying the basic needs of all people on a sustainable basis. Because economic growth was the mainspring of development, efforts to achieve and accelerate sustained economic growth were essential for expanding the resource base of developing countries. In that connection, the agenda for development should build upon the older and well-tested core issues of development, such as international trade, finance and technology, while at the same time incorporating newer dimensions, such as environmental and social concerns together with democratization and population issues. Adequate trade, financial and technological regimes were critical to

(Mr. Loeis, Indonesia)

development. International trade, for example, provided a sustained and essential means of earning crucial foreign exchange. In that context, the recently concluded Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations should ensure the continued liberalization of global trade and contribute to the promotion of an open, rural-based, non-discriminatory and predictable trading system.

The experience of Indonesia had been that stability was essential to, as well as dependent upon, development. In Indonesia, the five dimensions of development identified by the Secretary-General in his agenda for development, namely, peace, economic growth, environment, social justice and democracy, were subsumed under what was known as the "trilogy of development", i.e. growth, equity and stability. Economic growth was one of the most effective ways of alleviating poverty and ensuring equity, which was seen not only as the equitable participation in development and its fruits but also as a sustainable balance between people and their environment. Growth and equity were the foundations of stability.

While the proposed agenda for development should be a continuing global process which sought to forge an international consensus on development, it should not be seen as a substitute for the agreements and instruments already in place. Rather, it should incorporate existing agreements and instruments while identifying the reasons why many of them had not been fully implemented.

The United Nations, as the only democratic and universal organization with the capacity to respond globally to economic and humanitarian issues, was uniquely positioned to launch the agenda for development. There was, however, a need to bring the Bretton Woods institutions closer to the United Nations. In that connection, the current policy dialogue with the heads of the various multilateral, financial and trade institutions of the United Nations was a step in the right direction and should become institutionalized.

Mr. AINSCOW (United Kingdom) said that the agenda for development provided a framework for a future approach to development that was both realistic and honest. It stressed the central role of economic growth as the engine of development while cautioning that it must be pursued in the context of sustainable human development. It made clear that appropriate and pragmatic national policies provided the critical foundation for growth and that without them no amount of international support would work. Most importantly, it

(Mr. Ainscow, United Kingdom)

recognized the fundamental link between development and democracy and the fact that development was a much broader concept than economic growth. Previous attempts within the United Nations system to promote those concepts had not been very successful. His delegation therefore welcomed the commitment contained in the agenda for development to pursue strategies that would help achieve development goals.

The United Kingdom did not agree with everything in the agenda; the latter had not effectively addressed the role of the Bretton Woods institutions and had understated the major contribution which those institutions were currently making to development. It also had doubts about some of the ideas on how to promote international cooperation, such as the proposal for a formal mechanism of contact between the Group of Seven and the Group of Fifteen, and noted the absence of any reference to the problem of drugs. Nevertheless, the agenda struck the right balance overall and provided an excellent basis for future work. The Economic and Social Council should now offer guidance to the Secretary-General on how the principles and themes contained in the agenda could be translated into concrete actions. Many of the building blocks for an enabling environment for development already existed and covered key issues, such as people-centred development, democracy and human rights, good government, the need for sound economic policies and a strong private sector, and the promotion of a supportive international economic environment.

Using that framework, the Council should now start the process of developing a menu of actions at both the national and international levels which could be adapted to the widely differing circumstances and needs of individual countries. Such a menu could be based on the five main principles contained in the agenda for development. National measures could include the need to promote equality of opportunity for all members of society and more specific issues, such as ways of creating the right economic environment. Actions by the international community could include the promotion of a freer trading environment, debt relief initiatives and more effective donor coordination aimed at maximizing the value of existing aid resources.

The other crucial task was to address the role of the United Nations system in development. While in some areas, such as exploiting the links between peace and development, its unique role was not questioned, in other areas, such as its claim to special expertise, the case for its comparative advantage was less

(Mr. Ainscow, United Kingdom)

obvious and must be demonstrated. The United Nations, like other institutions, must earn its right to be regarded as a principal channel of development assistance. Reform must continue if the United Nations was to play the sort of role in development envisaged by the agenda. One of the most potent instruments for such reform was General Assembly resolution 47/199. Indeed, most of the necessary instruments for reform were already in place and the challenge was now to ensure that they were used effectively.

Mr. KHURSHEED (India) said that the need for an agenda for development had never been greater, given recent attempts to sideline development and treat it merely as a component of or adjunct to peacemaking and conflict resolution. It was essential to rectify the erosion of the Organization's development cooperation mission in the areas of policy-making, coordination, implementation, monitoring and execution.

An agenda for development must comprehensively address the widespread, absolute poverty which hampered the efforts of developing countries to achieve accelerated economic growth and sustainable development and to contribute to global prosperity. Rather than redefine or renegotiate the consensus regarding or policy frameworks for various aspects of development which already existed or which would emerge from the United Nations Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development, the agenda should seek to enable the United Nations to monitor their implementation and identify any obstacles thereto. The United Nations should coordinate policy and action where required and execute programmes where called upon to do so. It must evolve a cooperative relationship with the Bretton Woods institutions.

The most vital aspect of an agenda for development must be a new synergistic partnership for development between developed and developing countries. That required a creative blending of free-market policies and governmental action at the national and international levels, a commitment by the developed countries to complement the efforts of the developing countries to integrate themselves in the global economy by jointly and democratically establishing fair rules and following those rules themselves. Developing countries which continued to have special needs would require preferential treatment, and the developing countries must be associated with the evolution and coordination of macroeconomic policies, in particular those which had an impact on monetary and financial issues.

(Mr. Khursheed, India)

His delegation did not question the fact that economic growth and development required supportive social and political structures, peace and stability and distributive justice. However, socio-political issues must not be central to an agenda for development nor should they become grounds for conditionality. His delegation envisaged a concrete, action-oriented agenda for development that clearly defined the strategies, parameters and mechanisms required to redress inequities in the international economic system. Accelerated economic growth and sustained development must not be sacrificed in the name of sustainable development.

His delegation hoped that, given the wealth of material now available on the subject, the Secretary-General would provide a further report on an agenda for development in time for the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The agenda should include an analysis of post-cold war international economic negotiations since 1989, concrete ways and means to tackle the obstacles to development facing developing countries, an action plan for a partnership for development and methods to enable the relevant United Nations bodies and the Bretton Woods institutions to act in concert for the implementation of the new agenda.

Mr. KASTRUP (Germany) said that the agenda for development was the necessary complement to the agenda for peace, since peace could only be maintained if the root causes of conflict were addressed. But peace alone was no guarantee of development. Countries must assume responsibility for their own development and for the promotion of respect for human rights, justice and fundamental freedoms. Those countries which did not fulfil that responsibility were destroying the foundations of development.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had imprinted on the conscience of all nations the need to change old attitudes and to ensure sustainable development. A global partnership to protect the environment and to sustain development would increasingly become the peace policy of the future.

Germany's objectives in the field of bilateral and multilateral development cooperation were primarily to combat poverty, promote the integration of developing countries into the world economy and to develop and strengthen democratic structures based on the rule of law. The European Union, for its part, had introduced guidelines for development cooperation aimed at ensuring greater consideration for the interdependence of human beings, democracy and

(Mr. Kastrup, Germany)

development. The operational activities for development within the United Nations system must be made more efficient and better coordinated than in the past. The coordinating role of UNDP, for example, should be strengthened by expanding the system of resident coordinator. It was also necessary to work out cooperation agreements with the specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions in order to make optimum use of the attributes of each side. He noted that the Commission on Sustainable Development was seeking to become the main political driving force for the new global partnership for the environment and development between North and South.

The agenda for development must serve as an instrument for eliminating poverty, disease, oppression and war and for promoting sustainable development and meeting the needs of the people, particularly those in the poorest countries. Development was a fundamental human right, and peace, democracy and justice constituted the foundation for its achievement.

Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland) said that his delegation was gratified that the report of the Secretary-General gave special attention to the close links between development and human rights. People were gradually coming round to the idea that democratic political systems could give an important stimulus to the development process. Poland's own experience over the past five years proved that bringing down political barriers and establishing institutions that enabled people to participate in decision-making could be instrumental in promoting development. The report rightly drew attention to the problems of the revival of xenophobia, as well as ultranationalistic and anti-democratic forces; it also referred to the need for a better appreciation of the importance of the various actors in the development process, including political parties, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations. The agenda for development could initiate the process of regular evaluation of the activities of those bodies and their interaction with the United Nations. Poland also supported the suggestion that the United Nations should assist grass-roots organizations.

New realities and the increasing interdependence in international relations required new approaches to cooperation. It was imperative to establish a partnership for development, in order to create a climate of genuine cooperation and international solidarity and inspire a new pattern of economic relations

(Mr. Mroziewicz, Poland)

between countries based on the recognition of sovereign equality, mutual interests and shared responsibility.

Democratic transformations initiated in Central Europe had brought about a global change; the reintegration of previously divided parts of the world into a single interdependent organism was one of the greatest challenges of the 1990s. That concept was not adequately reflected in the agenda as a whole. The challenge of transition should be an important chapter of the agenda. The economic transformation of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe had also shown that there was no viable alternative to the market economy; that basic point was not properly reflected in the agenda.

The current climate was conducive to enhancing the role of the United Nations in development. The "spirit of Rio" had made it possible to start building an international consensus around sustainable development. The role of the agenda would be to enrich that concept with a human dimension. The five global conferences envisaged by the United Nations in the 1990s could be instrumental in that respect. The agenda should synthesize the results of those conferences, indicating areas or problems which had not been given adequate attention. The United Nations needed to strengthen its role in the economic, social and related fields. Particular attention should be focused on the interactions between the Bretten Woods institutions and the United Nations and on how those institutions could cooperate more closely with other United Nations agencies in their respective areas and on the basis of comparative advantage.

The agenda for development and an agenda for human rights as proposed by his delegation could constitute the two major pillars of future cooperation in the Council.

Mr. NAKAJIMA (Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO)) said that, as part of the United Nations system, WHO was committed to the development of nations and to the health of their peoples. WHO believed that Governments had a responsibility for the health of their peoples and that the only way to fulfil that responsibility was by ensuring adequate health and social standards. Governments, however, could not accomplish that on their own and WHO had therefore begun to update its health-for-all strategies with a view to more effectively promoting universal access to health care through the active involvement of the community. WHO actively participated in the development dialogue with other United Nations organizations, including the Bretton Woods

(Mr. Nakajima, WHO)

institutions, in order to ensure greater consistency and efficiency in programmes and in the use of resources. In that context, it had restructured the immunization programmes of WHO and was pursuing a dialogue with its partners in the United Nations system with a view to establishing a co-sponsored programme.

WHO focused attention on countries and population groups which were particularly vulnerable and which had limited access to health services. It recognized the link between health and economic development and helped countries to identify those interventions that would meet vital health needs and alleviate poverty. It was especially concerned with sub-Saharan Africa where the threat of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria had become not only a health problem but also a social, economic and political issue.

In order to ensure a standard of health which permitted all human beings to live socially and economically productive lives, both development and democracy were essential. Indeed, the Secretary-General rightly equated democracy with good governance. From the point of view of health, that meant that available resources must be devoted to building up the basic infrastructure of primary health care. The well-being of the environment was intimately linked with that of human beings. It was not only pollution that damaged human health. Wasted natural resources, chemical and nuclear hazards, civil strife and other human factors, including uncoordinated decision-making, all deprived people of the opportunity to lead healthy and productive lives. Development would not be possible unless the health of all human beings was assured through appropriate policies and action. The world community must therefore focus its attention on development as a people-oriented, participatory effort, in which economic growth led to sustainable human well-being, including health security, for all.

Mr. MOHAMMED (Ethiopia) welcomed the proposed agenda for development, noting that the plight of Africa was worsening daily. While Ethiopia shared the view that each country was responsible for its own development, that did not negate the value of the commitment, especially in the form of official development assistance, made by global partners. Current policy initiatives and market reforms in Africa must be set in the context of growth and development; the issue of the access of African products to international markets was of particular importance. It was common knowledge that African products were currently subject to both tariff and non-tariff barriers; the United Nations

(Mr. Mohammed, Ethiopia)

should initiate discussions with the international partners of Africa and the relevant institutions for the swift removal of those barriers.

Within the context of the United Nations role in development, human resource development and institution-building were the cornerstone of the technical assistance provided to Ethiopia. Indeed, the agenda for peace and the agenda for development were at the heart of the development programme of the Government of that country. The universality of the United Nations system and the mandate given by its Charter were excellent beginnings. However, more results were now needed and the United Nations system must be strengthened to enable it to provide assistance more efficiently and on a larger scale.

Mr. MAYOR (Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) said that the agenda for development must lead to concerted and effective action by the international community to end the scandal of the current social inequalities. Such an agenda needed to place the greatest emphasis on the generation and transfer of knowledge, the promotion of human development and endogenous capacity-building through lifelong, intensive and diversified education. Education - accessible to all members of society, including girls and women, employing all the resources of modern technology, varied in its forms and methods in order to respond to diverse social needs and provide opportunities for the continuous upgrading and extension of knowledge was the key to realizing the unique potential of each individual and tackling the problem of underdevelopment at its source. It was also a crucial factor in mastering runaway population growth, fostering environmental protection and promoting attitudes of tolerance and mutual understanding conducive to democracy and peace within and between nations. Such an education must be at the heart of any agenda for development.

Peace-keeping and humanitarian assistance were overshadowing the central purpose of the United Nations. Innovative ways must be found of achieving a better balance between peace-keeping and peace building, including the adaptation of military capacity, the empowerment of civil society and the reduction of the current asymmetries. In a world used to responding to what was appealing to the eye and the emotions, there was a need to promote a greater awareness of the importance of intangibles such as peace building.

(Mr. Mayor, UNESCO)

No economic growth was possible without human resources, without human empowerment through knowledge and skill acquisition. Investment in education at all levels was vital in order to nourish the roots of development.

Concrete measures to achieve economic and social development were needed. What finally mattered were the priorities established at the national level, the percentage of GNP devoted to education and scientific and technical development, and national agreement on essential policies for sustainable development.

Practical as well as moral considerations urged the need for the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind. In a world in which global media coverage made everyone a witness, human solidarity was increasingly a political necessity. Education was crucial to managing interdependence and nurturing a world-wide culture of development and a global culture of peace.

Mr. GORITA (Romania) referring to the idea that development was the shared responsibility of all countries, said that the prospects for balanced and sustained global development in the future should be based on correct assessment of the specific problems of individual countries. Furthermore good governance and the encouragement of private initiative were prerequisites for the enhancement of national efforts to promote development. Good governance required political will conducive to change and development, internal social and political stability, and adequate policies and strategies to ensure the efficient use of existing human and material resources and to maintain a balance between short-, medium- and long-term options. That in turn required the support of a favourable international environment which fully recognized the interdependence of development and peace.

The agenda for development should pay special attention to the close interrelationship between environment and development at the global and national levels. Environmental considerations must be incorporated during the initial stages of any economic reform or structural adjustment process. He underscored the important role of democracy and respect for human rights in achieving sustained growth and sustainable development. Governments no longer should act as the main agents of economic growth, but rather, should provide a supportive institutional and legal framework for private initiatives.

Mr. de MARIA y CAMPOS (Director-General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that everyone would agree that peace must be at the top of the agenda for development as a basic condition of

(Mr. de Maria y Campos, UNIDO)

development. One particular dimension of development was both a consequence and precursor of peace, namely, socio-economic development. The 1990s had seen the beginning of a period of extraordinary global change. However, most developing countries, particularly the least developed countries of Africa and the poorer population segments of other developing countries, were unable to take advantage of the new opportunities for growth. Foreign direct investment had largely been confined to a few countries. For the rest, which were also facing rapid population growth and massive unemployment, the impact of change could translate into accentuated disparities and social conflicts. Just as lack of peace endangered socio-economic progress, lack of socio-economic progress could endanger peace and lead to the need for even more costly peace-keeping operations.

The challenge was to harness the opportunities and build up resilient economic growth patterns. In recent years, the United Nations had had to focus on one issue after another, overshadowing long-term fundamental concerns that were at the root of development in national economies.

Industrialization was the main driving force of socio-economic development. Blind faith in its rewards, as well as the excesses of import substitution, had led to a period of disenchantment with the role of industrialization in development. In recent years it had become evident that industry was the key activity that added value to human and natural resources and provided for the efficient and effective satisfaction of human needs. However, industrialization did not happen automatically; while private sector development had an essential role to play, a more pro-active role had to be played by the public sector, especially at the earlier stages of industrial development or restructuring. The United Nations system must support both the public and private sectors. The developing world and the countries in transition needed to follow an industrial development pattern that from the outset was directed to equitable and environmentally sustainable development, rather than growth with built-in conflicts and disparities.

New global partnerships were required between all the agents of growth in the international community, in contrast to traditional fragmented technical assistance. The complexity of the development process, and its interrelated social, political, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions, had to be recognized. A new ethic of national and international industrial development

(Mr. de Maria y Campos, UNIDO)

and global industrial partnership was needed, in which public and private entities, with the support of the United Nations system, synchronized their efforts.

Recent experience showed that macroeconomic stability was a necessary but not a sufficient condition for socio-economic development and that globalization was often accompanied by disintegration within national borders. Macroeconomic adjustments required the incorporation of the sectoral and social dimension. In that context, the United Nations needed to shift its attention to fundamental issues; redefine its role in regard to global, regional, national and subnational issues; search for its added value in the solution of problems; and restructure its organizational setting and give proper attention and resources to specialized agencies. Global issues and global institutions needed to be operationalized. Deliberate and specific actions had to be taken which required expertise that only the specialized agencies could provide.

Restructuring needed to be pursued within the United Nations to ensure that programmes had greater impact and sharper focus. To that end, the tasks of the United Nations system must be properly reviewed and the work reassigned among its various agencies. At the same time, a fundamental restructuring of the organizations was necessary, and an overhaul of management rules and procedures so that they could respond effectively to demands for their services.

UNIDO had recently completed its own far-reaching process of reform and organizational restructuring, with the support of Member States. However, its programmes could achieve the desired impact only when they formed an integral part of the overall international and national development efforts; when UNIDO could further build up its country presence, in coordination with other United Nations organizations; when the division of labour between the specialized agencies was clear-cut, avoiding duplication; when the various restructuring efforts of the United Nations system took account of the comparative advantages of each agency; and when UNDP and the Bretton Woods institutions relied on the expertise of the specialized agencies which had a comparative advantage.

Mr. CAVALCANTI (Brazil) said that the end of the cold war had greatly increased the possibilities for cooperation. The increasing interdependence of the world economy demanded strengthened cooperation because no country or group of countries could expect to have complete control over economic variables. Instead of equating cooperation with aid or assistance, efforts must be made to

(Mr. Cavalcanti, Brazil)

rise above the donor-recipient paradigm to a partnership model of mutual efforts for mutual gain. Five concrete themes must be addressed under an agenda for development.

The first was the need to build upon the trade liberalization efforts of the past decade through enhanced efforts to curb restrictions. By creating the conditions for an expansion of world trade, a strong stimulus would be given to growth, the necessary prerequisite of development. The efforts undertaken by most Latin American economies over the past decade had not been matched by comparable efforts on the part of industrialized countries.

Second, an agenda for development should seek to support an economic regionalism that fostered greater integration at the regional level as a mechanism for enhanced international integration, not as a barrier to interregional trade. Latin American regional experiences exhibited that healthy trend towards an "open regionalism".

Third, renewed emphasis must be given to economic multilateralism, which had advanced so much during the Uruguay Round. The new World Trade Organization had inherited a legacy which reflected the key issues of international trade, though emerging interrelationships, such as those between trade and the environment or labour policies, should not be construed as new modalities of protectionism.

A fourth area was that of international financial flows, both official and private nature, which had become increasingly important in the promotion of development. Appropriate measures must be sought to increase productive private investment and official development assistance, particularly for the least developed countries.

Fifth, an agenda for development must recognize the critical role played by technology in development efforts as well as the need to promote multilateral action aimed at enhancing technology transfers. Notwithstanding the important role of the private sector, intergovernmental action could be instrumental in stimulating technology transfer, much as national measures could assist in the internal research and development of technologies.

Through a combination of measures in those five priority areas, a system of international cooperation for development could be structured so that the interests of all the parties concerned could be fully taken into account. Development must be sustained, sustainable, general and equitable. Policy

(Mr. Cavalcanti, Brazil)

coordination between the United Nations economic bodies and the Bretton Woods institutions and greater participation of developing nations in the decision-making process of those institutions were of particular importance.

In order to promote genuine cooperation, mechanisms must be developed which equitably took into account the diverse interests at stake. While the United Nations was built upon more democratic principles, it was held back by the lack of concrete instruments with which to take action. The Bretton Woods institutions had authority, but their decision-making procedures would benefit from more effective participation of developing countries. The current decision-making procedure had led to an erosion of the capacity of institutions to address the major macroeconomic imbalances in the world economy. Thus institutions essentially acted as monitors of the developing countries' economic policies and as lenders in areas deemed to be of global impact, such as the environment, whereas in fact the need was for a more nuanced and objective-oriented action.

The existing international mechanisms tended to be insufficient either because of their lack of effective impact on world macroeconomic variables or because of their inability to address imbalances affecting a significant part of the world economy. Much could still done to further policy coordination among them in order to provide the world community with clearer and more coherent goals. It was critical to address the issue of governance at the international level in order to erect a system which, on the basis of the interests of all parties, could lead to an equitable sharing of burdens and benefits.

The priority thematic areas which should be covered in an agenda for development were: promoting trade liberalization as a powerful engine for growth and development, supporting economic regionalism as building-blocks towards a more dynamic world economy, establishing an economic multilateralism which fully took into account the interests of all partners, enhancing international financial flows towards developing countries and recognizing the role of technology as a vital component in development.

Mr. ZARIF (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the agenda for development should contain more specific proposals on international trade, financial resources, transfer of technology and scientific cooperation. While national conditions were crucial to development, the agenda should also

(Mr. Zarif, Observer, Islamic Republic of Iran)

focus on essential external conditions. In addition it must highlight effective follow-up mechanisms and explore ways and means of promoting participation by developing countries on an equal footing in negotiations concerning crucial international fiscal and trade policies. The United Nations, because of its universality, relative transparency and democratic nature, was the most appropriate forum for economic policy coordination, provided that the Bretton Woods institutions were involved. In his view, the Economic and Social Council was the most appropriate body for policy coordination and follow-up; however it must be strengthened.

Mr. Botez (Romania), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka) said that the most urgent task was to attack absolute poverty and to mobilize the resources necessary for that purpose. Accordingly, he commended the proposal made at the eleventh ministerial meeting of the non-aligned countries in Cairo to convene an international conference on the financing of development. In that connection, particular attention must be paid to the least developed countries which were racked by problems of negative economic growth, high rates of infant mortality and had private sectors which were too weak to play a key role.

While international cooperation and assistance were critical to achieve people-centred development, development should come from within and the priorities should be set by the countries themselves. It was important for the world to realize that development in the South would benefit both the South and the North. Technological advances and the revolution in communications were shaping a new global moral awareness. That awareness must extend to political life, in which pluralism and dialogue must triumph over ethnic intolerance and confrontation, and be mirrored in the economic sphere in a genuine partnership based on respect for equity and justice, free trade and sustainable development.

Mr. ALBAR (Observer for Malaysia) said that in their search for a new beginning and a new spirit of partnership developed and developing countries must be prepared to abandon extreme positions and base their vision on the idea of the interdependence and equity of nations. A determined effort must be made to overcome antagonisms and prejudices which were the legacy of history, the cold war or perceived cultural contradictions.

(Mr. Albar, Observer, Malaysia)

As diversity and spontaneity were the mainsprings of national creativity, each country must make continuous efforts to involve all minorities in its social and economic progress. At the same time, economic growth must go hand in hand with equity in order for social progress and integration to flourish. Concern for the rights of the individual must be viewed within the broader context of the common good of the society as a whole. Sustainable development was impossible without continuous investment in physical and human capital from within and from outside the region. However, persistent attempts to introduce social and environmental clauses into the international trade regime would have a negative impact on economic growth and development in developing countries; not only were such clauses protectionist in intent but they would also put an unbearable social burden on developing countries.

The Council's discussion of development must cut across cultures and traditions. If the United Nations was to play a role at the current turning point in history, it must introduce reforms. How such reform was conducted and the role played by the Organization in the emerging world order were of critical importance to the evolution of international relations.

Mr. EGGERT (Observer for Finland) said that while the Secretary-General's description of the five interlinked dimensions of development was useful, the agenda should reflect the notion that sustainable development was not merely an environmental concern but that it involved sustainability in economic, social and environmental terms. The role of the United Nations among the various other development partners must be more clearly defined. It should be able to analyse the social effects of structural adjustment and to provide policy advice in the social sectors and technical assistance to Governments. In addition to its analytical function the United Nations had a deliberative and normative function. The deliberative function was important in building consensus and directing attention to a variety of issues. Its value had, however, been reduced by the introduction of a plethora of issues on the General Assembly's agenda. As a result, consensus-building now took place at summit-level meetings. The agenda must address that issue. It could also stimulate an in-depth discussion on the importance of official development assistance to least developed countries and of present modes of development

(Mr. Eggert, Observer, Finland)

cooperation. Finally, the agenda must recognize more clearly that development was a global issue and that special attention must be given to Africa.

Mr. Butler (Australia) resumed the Chair.

Mr. DERYCKE (Belgium), referring to concepts of sustainable human development, noted that clear-cut priorities must be established. It must first be recognized that individual countries had different levels of development and different needs. In that connection, peace was a crucial prerequisite to any sustainable development. Therefore, the transition from peace-keeping operations to economic development activities should be facilitated. Such operations must be accompanied by plans preferably at the regional level, for the "post-chaos" period. His country, which contributed considerably to United Nations efforts, also supported regional peace-keeping initiatives through the Organization of African Unity. The latter course needed to be explored further.

Furthermore, it must be recognized that within societies certain social groups needed special attention. Steps must be taken to curb the tragic waste of human resources. Much could be accomplished by the developing countries themselves particularly through balanced national budgets. A better division of labour in the field of development was needed; tasks must be defined at all levels. Efficiency should be the only criterion in that regard. The specific role of the United Nations and its various agencies and organizations must be re-examined and a realistic division of labour between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions based on mutual respect must be established. Those institutions must realize that dialogue was necessary. A relatively modest approach to the agenda for development, based on past experience, would be most effective. People-centred development models must be flexible in order to be adaptable to human needs. The process of preparing the agenda for development was political and success would be measured by the agenda's ultimate impact.

Mr. NARANJO (Costa Rica) said that the Secretary-General's proposals reflected the priorities of Central American countries. After describing efforts being carried out in the region with international support to bring about peace and stability, he noted that peace and freedom were not enough and that human rights encompassed more than the civil and political rights of people. The region was still facing challenges in the economic, social, ecological and cultural fields. Central America was therefore giving top

(Mr. Naranjo, Costa Rica)

priority to sustainable human development. Because of its astonishing biodiversity, Costa Rica had included ecological instruction in its school curricula and had enshrined the obligation to protect the environment in its constitution. His country intended to address its critical environmental problems and to implement innovative programmes based on popular participation and on the idea that production and conservation were two sides of the same coin. Those projects would go hand in hand with sound management of the economy and eradication of poverty. Regionally, a spirit of cooperation for sustainable development had been forged that took into account the specific conditions of each country. The region had begun talks with the United Nations Development Programme in order to secure financing for some priority projects. Central America, which had been a successful model for the settlement of conflicts through dialogue and reconciliation in the 1980s, hoped to become a successful pilot programme for sustainable development in the 1990s. It hoped that it could count on international support in that endeavour.

Mr. HOVE (Zimbabwe) said that in an increasingly interdependent world, disparities between the developed and the developing countries were becoming increasingly more glaring. Developing countries continued to have little control over the key determinants of international trade and the agenda must thus seek to redress those imbalances among the two groups of countries. It must put forward concrete proposals for poverty reduction and employment creation opportunities as well as for the role of women in development. External official development assistance had declined to less than half of the target established by the General Assembly in 1970. For sustainable development to take place, the efforts of developing countries had to be supported by a favourable economic climate. His country hoped that with the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral negotiations, a more equitable and non-discriminatory trading system would be established. The international community also needed to adopt a unified coordinated approach to the debt problem of developing countries. In that connection, he pleaded for the cancellation of at least two thirds of the debt, under the Trinidad Terms of low-income developing countries, particularly in Africa. Particular attention also needed to be paid to the critical economic situation in Africa.

The United Nations must enhance its role in promoting international cooperation for development. Any new vision of development should be firmly

(Mr. Hove, Zimbabwe)

founded upon agreed objectives and commitments. In that connection, the agenda for development must ensure greater supervision of the Bretton Woods institutions. It should not seek to rewrite the consensus achieved under international agreements.

Mr. SAMUELSSON (Observer for Sweden) said that it was time to rethink the institutional framework for international economic and social cooperation and the role of the United Nations in that regard, not least in the operational field. An agenda for development - a timely contribution to that process - should focus on what the United Nations should be doing, rather on how it should carry out its work.

The concept of development should be discussed not only from a developing country perspective, but also as a global issue, focusing on the interdependence which characterized the contemporary world. He welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General had underscored that point in his introduction at the preceding meeting. Furthermore, the interrelationship of democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as a basis for truly sustainable human development required further elaboration. In addition, the interrelationship between population imbalances, poverty alleviation and environmental constraints must be borne in mind in any analysis of the concept of development.

His delegation welcomed the distinction made in the report between the three different functions of the United Nations, an analysis substantially in line with that contained in the Nordic United Nations project, which had identified the meeting place function, the normative function and the operational function. The distinction was important since the role of the United Nations differed significantly in regard to each of them. While his delegation welcomed the analysis of the first two functions, it felt that the operational role of the United Nations system in the economic field should be developed further. The United Nations was in a unique position to undertake operational activities in support of national development efforts, not least with regard to the maintenance of peace and security, social equity and the process of fostering democracy and public participation. It was important to define what the United Nations should do, given the limited resources at its disposal, to enhance the quality and impact of operational activities for development and ensure a stable and secure resource base.

(Mr. Samuelsson, Observer, Sweden)

The Secretary-General should include in his subsequent analysis of the topic other international institutions in the development field, including the Bretton Woods institutions. His delegation would welcome ideas on their roles and on the division of labour among them, and more concrete proposals as to what the United Nations itself should be doing, to ensure that each organization focused on what it did best.

Mr. MAJID (Bangladesh) said that the Secretary-General's report on an agenda for development rightly emphasized the ideals of democracy, good governance, human rights and social justice, all prerequisites for the enhancement of human capability and choice and for sustainable development. The international community should commit itself to ensuring that the developed countries honoured their pledge to increase the net flow of official, multilateral and bilateral resources to the developing countries, particularly the least developed economies; reducing the debt burden of the developing countries; in particular, the least developed countries; improving the access of developing countries to the markets of developed economies unhindered by non-tariff, quasi-tariff and hidden protectionist measures based on value judgements on social and human rights issues; facilitating the developing countries' access to environmentally sound technologies on concessional and favourable terms; and facilitating the transfer of technology to the developing countries and its adaptation to their needs.

Most of the least developed countries had implemented wide-ranging reforms under structural adjustment programmes. The international community must fulfil its commitment to reach established official development assistance targets, and the debt burden of those countries should be reduced and, wherever possible, eliminated. Expeditious implementation of the special differential measures included in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations would boost the developing countries' development prospects.

The United Nations should play an enhanced role in the post-cold war era in formulating global economic policies on a transparent, equitable and participatory basis, all the while upholding the principles enunciated in the Charter. It also had an enhanced role to play in consensus-building, particularly with respect to trade, finance, aid, environment, technology, human resources development and the progress of the least developed countries.

(Mr. Majid, Bangladesh)

In order to ensure that the agenda for development adequately dealt with the operational activities of the United Nations, it should be translated into a concrete plan of action reflecting the diversity of conditions in Member countries and a balance between national and international responsibilities and commitments.

Mr. HENIGSBERG (Observer for Croatia) said that his country strongly favoured the achievement of a balance between social and economic development through balanced economic growth based on equality, the right to development, social development, environmental protection and human development. The World Summit for Social Development would play an important role in promoting those values. Efforts to achieve that balance were of particular significance for countries like his own which were undergoing a transformation to a market economy.

The transformation process and the development of entrepreneurship carried a danger of social stratification, with potentially very negative social consequences. The goal should be to enable equality of opportunity for every individual, regardless of nationality, race or gender. The Governments of the countries in transition had a major role to play in achieving that objective and must formulate clear social programmes and adopt corrective measures to reduce the social costs of transformation, while avoiding playing a dominant role in the economy and in social development in general.

The severe devastation wrought in his country by Serbian military aggression compounded the difficulties of the transformation process. Underscoring the plight of displaced persons in his country, he warned that such persons might become a marginalized group unless the international community took steps to look after their needs along with those of refugees. The danger was all the more real as it was becoming increasingly clear that the international community could not find a solution to the armed conflict in that part of the world.

His country's main social programme focused on the return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes. Aid to his country must address not only the repair of infrastructure and humanitarian activities, but also the need to build a foundation for its future economic and social development. Specific action should be taken to transform humanitarian relief into longer-term development programmes, an approach whose validity had been acknowledged by the

(Mr. Henigsberg, Observer, Croatia)

international community in General Assembly resolution 48/204. Lastly, he said that the involvement of his Government in identifying needs, implementing programmes and coordinating the distribution of aid was a precondition for more effective international assistance.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.13
21 July 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994

High-level Segment

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 29 June 1994, at 10 a.m.

President:	Mr. BUTLER	(Australia)
later:	Mr. DANGUE REWAKA (Vice-President)	(Gabon)

CONTENTS

AN AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AN AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/48/935)

Mr. REY (Colombia) said that, for an agenda for development to be successful, a firm commitment was required on the part of the international community, and a principal share of that responsibility lay with the developing countries. His delegation supported the position of the Group of 77 on the agenda. It was only by consolidating economic growth and development that the international community would be able to guarantee a peaceful and democratic transition to the new international order which had begun to take shape at the end of the cold war. Democracy not only represented a guarantee for the participation of all segments of the population in defining their own destiny, it also implied a representative and universal system of international relations, open to all cultures and types of government. A central objective of an agenda for development should be the eradication of poverty, which was the most severe economic and social scourge of the present era. Sustained economic growth and mechanisms which allowed for an equitable distribution of benefits were required to satisfy the basic needs of populations and raise living standards. For economic goals to be sustained, restrictions that hindered access to markets, investment, technology and flows of information to developing countries had to be eliminated. Economic and social goals could not be achieved if the asymmetrical conditions of the international economy continued to prevail.

The market was an efficient instrument for development. However, the State was the only institution which could correct the imperfections of the market and thwart the problems of marginalization, poverty, unemployment and environmental degradation. Therefore, before addressing the subject of a market-oriented economy, it was necessary to discuss a development-oriented economy and economic and social development. It was alarming that in the current context of increasing globalization, the role of the United Nations in the economic and social spheres had ostensibly diminished. That situation was due, in part, to the fact that some countries favoured other institutions, but also to the lack of a fresh vision of its future role. The role of the United Nations should be

(Mr. Rey, Colombia)

redefined so as to prevent it from being eclipsed by other international institutions. The agenda for development lacked action-oriented proposals aimed at resolving existing imbalances in development. The report of the Secretary-General (A/48/935) made no specific recommendations as to how to improve the relationship between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. Those institutions, and the World Trade Organization, should work closely with the United Nations system if an agenda for development was to lead to a new and genuine partnership for development. A will to modify the prevailing rules of the game and allow for the transparent and free functioning of markets was essential if that partnership was to be viable.

Mr. VINAS (European Commission) said that the European Community agreed that development was a process that should address social issues, questions of equity, environmental challenges and problems arising from demographic factors. It should, above all, ensure an appropriate equitable distribution of the fruits of growth and expansion in order to fight against poverty. Over the past 20 years, the growth rate of the developing countries had been almost double that of the industrialized nations. While there had been substantial improvements in social indicators such as life expectancy, infant mortality rates, literacy and access to drinking water, not all developing countries had shared those gains. The continuing existence of acute poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy in many developing countries was attributable in part to inadequate policies and unfavourable income distribution. A further problem was rapid population growth. Policies should take account of those factors and ensure adequate resources for education, training and access to basic services. They should also ensure the effective working of the labour market and the efficient management of the environment. Those efforts should be supported by fair taxes and redistribution. The European Community paid increasing attention to such factors in its assistance programmes.

The role of the European Community in the area of trade had contributed significantly to the development process. Imports of manufactured goods from the developing countries constituted the most rapidly growing sector of trade in the European Community and had doubled in volume during the 1980s. The European Community was a very open market for developing countries and would become even more so as a result of the Uruguay Round. The European Community had proposed a new general system of preferences, which introduced a number of new and

(Mr. Vinas, European Commission)

important incentives for the development of more sustainable growth. It was aware that official development assistance (ODA) would continue to be crucial to the success of the development process. The European Community had embarked on a series of initiatives in its Asian and Latin American programmes and its Mediterranean policy in order to create more stable conditions for investment in developing countries. Those initiatives encouraged joint ventures between firms in Europe and the developing world so as to channel investment, technical assistance and the transfer of technology and managerial know-how. To ensure that its objectives were achieved in the most effective way, the European Community, through its institutions, had considered ways of better coordinating the cooperation programmes of member States both at the policy and at the operational level. National policies for development had to be supported by the international community in order to be successful and, in that regard, the industrialized countries had a special responsibility to ensure the efficient functioning of the international economic system.

Mr. JEHAIMI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that many developing countries still lacked the fundamentals of development: peace, justice, economic development, democracy and a sound environment. Further international cooperation and more effective machinery to translate that cooperation into practical results were required. The ethnic problems and internal conflicts witnessed by some developing countries clearly reflected the failure of development efforts. His delegation was of the view that certain factors, including highly protectionist policies, restrictions on technology, and falling prices of primary goods and raw materials, exacerbated economic problems and hampered development. Economic sanctions, when imposed on small countries, impeded the social prosperity and economic development of those countries. Asset freezes, embargoes, trade restrictions and other economic practices, which were employed for political reasons, ran counter to world peace and development. Such practices had adversely affected his country's development efforts and could harm its economic relations with other States. His delegation called on the international community to take effective measures to halt such practices and ensure that problems were resolved through mutual understanding and negotiation.

Mr. KITT (Ireland) said that a practical and action-oriented document was needed to establish clear recommendations and provide Governments with a real basis for action. The eradication of poverty lay at the heart of all international endeavours in the broad field of development. While some progress had been made in tackling the causes of world poverty, the situation in some countries had grown worse. Urgent remedial action was needed to improve the lot of the many millions who lived in dire poverty. The frightening growth of the world's population made the need for an effective response even more pressing. The current climate, which favoured constructive change at the United Nations, provided a good opportunity for action on poverty and the improvement of mechanisms for helping those in need.

The international community should be prepared to grant the Trinidad terms and, in some instances, do even more to help countries with a severe problem of indebtedness. The recent agreement of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), signed at Marrakesh, had been hailed as a landmark in the process of opening up and improving world trade. However, it should work for the benefit of all, and not just the strongest. When establishing better access to markets for the developing countries, steps should be taken to monitor closely how well those countries were able to benefit from that improvement. More must be done to enable the least developed countries to break out of the cycle of poverty and dependence which had impeded their development. A fundamental component of the new approach to development should be a restructured United Nations that could respond effectively to the demands and challenges of a changing world.

Mr. MATHISEN (Norway) said that while his delegation was fully aware of the dangers and difficulties facing the international community, it believed there had been many positive achievements to date. Those included an emerging consensus on the main ingredients in development-promoting policies, both at the national and international levels, a new pragmatism that should make it possible to effectively address development agendas, and the finalization of the Uruguay Round, which had provided a further impetus for multilateralism. Many countries were already reaping huge benefits from sustained reforms and many of the strongest growth impulses now came from the developing countries. Lastly, some progress had been made in addressing environmental problems. The five dimensions of development identified in the agenda for development offered a

(Mr. Mathison, Norway)

useful framework for thought and action and were key parameters in the common drive for a better world.

However, the operational part of the Secretary-General's report (A/48/935) did not clearly identify the role of the United Nations in development; nor did it indicate how that Organization should adapt to new realities. It was necessary to determine how the United Nations could improve the division of labour between the various actors on the development scene and to identify the comparative advantages of the various institutions. The specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions should achieve better coordination, and inter-agency cooperation and coordination should be enhanced to secure coherent development assistance from the United Nations system as a whole. It was necessary to determine how the five dimensions of development, outlined by the Secretary-General, would be translated into practical work on the part of the United Nations. An improved United Nations could provide independent analyses, a meeting place and a framework for intergovernmental cooperation, technical assistance and humanitarian relief. Unless all the Member States and the Secretariat improved their efforts to make the Organization more effective, the United Nations would lose relevance and would no longer be in a position to play its proper role.

Mr. GOLOB (Observer for Slovenia) commended the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and thoughtful report on an agenda for development, which expressed realistic views on the relationship between economic growth and social development and incorporated the lessons of recent experience. In his view, the cold war would not be truly over until it was generally accepted that profound changes were needed on both sides of the former dividing line.

The social cost of transition could threaten to derail it and needed to be addressed by social policies that were not mere stopgaps but an organic part of the transition process.

Slovenia had already made great strides in its own historic transition process by bringing inflation down to 11 to 13 per cent and restoring economic growth to 3 to 4 per cent per year; it expected to be entering a period of economic fine-tuning and full integration into Europe within three years. Involvement in the transition process, however, need not mean self-absorption and a callous disregard for the neediest. His country was eager to participate in a search for better and more modern paths to development. Much of the old

(Mr. Golob, Observer, Slovenia)

thinking and vocabularies arising out of opposing systems should be relinquished in favour of pragmatic models in which the State would play a diminished role. The United Nations could help foster the conviction that it was better to undertake new and difficult steps than to repeat old mistakes. It was to be hoped that the World Summit for Social Development would provide a forum for sharing experiences of both success and failure in transition and transformation, from which important insights might be drawn.

The interdependence of economic and social issues was one of the main messages of the agenda for development, and the United Nations system should also seek to work in an integrated fashion. Social policies and good governance involving universally accepted human rights standards were important components of a meaningful, coherent economic policy and, conversely, economic issues had to be taken into account in formulating social policies. The ethical dimension of development should surely be an essential plank in the development platform. The problems of unemployment required not only pragmatic action, but a new commitment to basic values affecting the world of work.

The preparation of policy recommendations would require much further thought and discussion. His Government welcomed the announcement by the President of the General Assembly of a series of world hearings on development, and fully supported the Secretary-General's efforts to make the United Nations system more effective and better coordinated. He hoped that the Bretton Woods institutions would give serious consideration to the views expressed in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. He welcomed the proposals of Mr. Camdessus, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), concerning IMF participation in the world summits on population and on social development.

Mr. LI Zhaoxing (China) said that his delegation agreed with the Secretary-General's view that development was in crisis and a solution was urgently needed. Development formed the foundation of peace, and the realization of economic growth and sustainable development in the developing countries was at the core of world development. While the world had witnessed tremendous changes, so that it was appropriate for the agenda for development to reflect the new reality, the fact remained that only economic growth and sustainable development could enable countries to change situations of poverty and backwardness and improve the material and cultural conditions of life.

(Mr. Li Zhaoxing, China)

The main objectives of the agenda for development were to meet the needs of economic and social development and to narrow the gap between North and South. Imbalances in the world economy were growing greater, the rapid development of science and technology contrasting with the more than one billion people in the world living in poverty. While economic ties between countries were becoming closer, the decision-making power in world economic affairs was still in the hands of a small number of countries. Developing countries were labouring under external constraints in their attempts to compete in a fiercely competitive world market. The problems of developed and developing countries were simply not comparable. The question of how to remove man-made obstacles to world economic cooperation had become a challenge to be addressed by the United Nations and the international community, and was a subject that should be treated by the agenda for development.

An important part of the agenda should be to build consensus on development among members of the international community and to strengthen the new global partnership. While it was the task of the countries themselves to make the first efforts, international cooperation was more necessary than ever. The developed countries should step up their economic structural reforms in order to benefit economic recovery and growth in both their own countries and the world as a whole; they should fulfil their promises of technical and financial assistance to developing countries and conduct democratic and constructive dialogues with them in areas such as coordination of global macroeconomic policies, trade, currency, finance, debt, technology and sustainable development.

A major principle of the agenda should be respect for state sovereignty, national conditions and the choices made by different countries. Countries differed in their social systems, stages of development, ideologies, values, cultural traditions and religious beliefs and, as a result, would inevitably follow different paths to development. Their choices and priorities should be respected.

The first question to be addressed by the agenda was the implementation of international agreements and strengthening of the functions of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. A series of documents embodying guiding principles on development, adopted by the United Nations, were in danger of becoming mere scraps of paper. The solution was not to renegotiate them but

(Mr. Li Zhaoxing, China)

to identify the obstacles preventing their implementation and put forward specific, action-oriented recommendations on how to remove them. Such measures should include: the strengthening of the function and role of the General Assembly and encouragement of wide-ranging dialogues between North and South; the enhancement of the status of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the strengthening of its coordinating role in the United Nations economic and social system and the improvement of its decision-making processes; increased United Nations contacts and cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions; utilization of the advantages and potential of the United Nations in multilateral technical cooperation to allow for prompt response to the development needs of developing countries, first and foremost by ending the Organization's financial shortage. To be effective the agenda would need to reflect the views of the overwhelming majority of the States Members of the United Nations.

Mrs. WAZIR ALI (Pakistan) said that the world economy was once again at a major turning-point. The Bretton Woods institutions established after the Second World War had undoubtedly contributed to the growth of the world economy, but economic prosperity had spread unevenly. The gap between the developed and developing countries had continued to increase. Since 1945, the industrialized countries had made commitments to assist development in the developing countries by three means: access to finance; access to markets; and transfer of technology and skills. The concept, however, was never applied as originally intended; access to markets, money and know-how had always been unequal - an asymmetry borne out by trends in financial flows over the past four decades.

Ideally, a fair and open international trading system should form the basis for development. Her country welcomed the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. At the same time, there was a compelling argument for preferential treatment for the more disadvantaged States for transitional periods, entailing greater coordination of macroeconomic policies. Efforts should be made to correct existing external and fiscal imbalances, promote non-inflationary sustainable growth, lower real interest rates, stabilize exchange rates and make markets more accessible.

(Mrs. Wazir Ali, Pakistan)

Official development assistance would have to remain an essential source of aid to the poorest and least developed countries. Aid programmes of donor countries had seldom reached internationally agreed targets based on GNP, a situation exacerbated by the unfair conditions imposed by donors. More equitable financing arrangements needed to be worked out. It was a matter of grave concern that financial commitments made to the United Nations development system had been declining steadily. The agenda for development must call for new and innovative modalities for funding.

The hope that the end of the cold war would release resources for development had so far not been realized. A proportion of the reduction in military expenditures should therefore be allocated to development.

The burden of debt-servicing payments had severely constrained growth and development. A case could be made for cancelling all or a substantial part of the debt of the least developed countries.

The agenda for development should foster the transfer of technology to developing countries on preferential terms and discourage policies that militated against their ability to use scientific and technological developments.

Most developing countries were forced to confront immediate fiscal and monetary problems by implementing structural adjustment policies that severely eroded their ability to pursue programmes for social and human development and adversely affected the most vulnerable portion of their populations. What was needed was "people-centred sustainable development" with a special emphasis on poverty alleviation. A supportive international economic environment was crucial to the success of the domestic efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty.

The agreements reached at the Rio summit were an important advance towards recognizing equitable development and environmentally sound development as twin imperatives.

Her country would like to see the following specific elements included in the proposed agenda for development: (a) an agreement on a non-discriminatory world trading system; (b) official development assistance as the essential source of concessional aid; (c) new and innovative methods for fund-raising; (d) development assistance programmes geared to the priorities of the recipient

(Mrs. Wazir Ali, Pakistan)

countries rather than the goals set by the donors; (e) allocation of a proportion of reduced military expenditure to development; (f) a solution to the problem of the foreign debt of developing countries; (g) direct foreign investment as the major source of outside financing; (h) the enhancement of opportunities for technology transfer; (i) emphasis on "people-centred sustainable development"; (j) the fulfilment of global commitments made at the Rio summit.

Her Government agreed with the Secretary-General that the basic responsibility for changing the human condition rested with national Governments. Her Government had been working since 1988 on reforms aimed at economic liberalization oriented towards human-centred development. Under the leadership of a democratically elected Muslim woman Prime Minister, Pakistan was preparing to forge ahead with its national Agenda for Change, which was in keeping with the United Nations agenda for development.

Mr. TURNQUEST (Bahamas) said that development was a shared concern of all nations, rich and poor, regardless of political system; it followed that international cooperation for development should be strengthened. Regrettably, as the developed world was pulling out of recession, the economic situation was stagnating or deteriorating in many developing countries. While Member States must assume responsibility for their own socio-economic development, solutions to the problems created by poverty, unemployment, degradation of the environment and the refugee situation would require an integrated approach by the international community. It was his hope that the agenda for development could provide a coherent strategy for a new, inclusive vision of world development. His Government supported all realistic measures to promote economic development and placed special emphasis on human resource development, the key to sustainable productive employment.

The recent Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States had revealed that past and present approaches to development had often resulted in threats to the environment. His Government was committed to ensuring that all programmes for the expansion of tourism, which despite diversification would continue to be the economic mainstay of the Bahamas for the foreseeable future, were both economically profitable and environmentally sound.

(Mr. Turnquest, Bahamas)

Inordinate pressure on the social system of a country had a direct impact on its development. The influx of immigrants from Haiti and Cuba placed tremendous demands on his country's social services and natural resources. No small developing nation could bear such burdens without support and assistance from the international community. He hoped that the agenda for development would institute a system of international cooperation to facilitate the mobilization of domestic resources and external assistance.

His Government attached great importance to the full participation of developing countries in decision-making for the resolution of world economic problems. While developing countries worked to build up their own national capacity, developed countries and international organizations must endeavour to improve the global economic environment and provide support and assistance.

A consolidated database and interactive communications system designed and operated by the United Nations would provide small States with a single point of entry to data, expertise and comparative experiences and a facility for integrating information into strategies for sustainable development.

He felt that it was crucial that the international organizations involved in development, and particularly the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the World Trade Organization and the Bretton Woods institutions, should coordinate their efforts.

He hoped that the agenda for development could correct an over-reliance on per capita income as a measure of need, a misleading yardstick in the case of small island States like the Bahamas. Many of his country's requests for financial and technical assistance and training had been denied on the basis of such criteria. A more perceptive approach might salvage projects with special potential.

Mr. SPETH (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) cited a number of reasons why an alternative to the United Nations in development did not exist (A/48/935, para.14). First, United Nations development programmes were concrete programmes of assistance and, while some could be made more effective, many had been extremely successful. Second, the work of the United Nations reflected the widely shared priorities of nations, including the priority of the poor majority, which was development. The Organization's work in development responded to a real need to alleviate such problems as poverty

(Mr. Speth, UNDP)

and hunger, joblessness, social disintegration and conflict, environmental deterioration, population and migration pressures and the denial of fundamental freedoms.

The United Nations must maintain a balance between peace-keeping and activities aimed at promoting human betterment. It was not practical to separate development from peace-building, for preventive development could help to preserve the peace. Nor was it practical to separate humanitarian emergency relief and refugee programmes from development. Characterized by impartiality and universality, the United Nations was in a unique position to forge international agreements; it could also provide development support for those agreements. Development assistance programmes must provide the developing world with a genuine sense of ownership, free from the political and economic interests of the major donors. Such ownership and trust would facilitate candid policy dialogue, sustained technical cooperation for capacity-building, untied aid and uncommercialized aid, cooperation on political and economic transitions, and capacity-building for better governance and social integration.

The United Nations could be a powerful force in the cause of human-centred and sustainable development by building on its history, mandates and strengths. As a universal body, it could offer services to the larger development assistance community. As a body whose work was country-driven and country-based - not Headquarters-based - it had the capacity to implement international agreements at the grass-roots level. As its mandate was comprehensive, it could establish linkages among the economic, political and social spheres of development and deal with most economic sectors and issues. It could harmonize work on refugees, humanitarian relief, and post-crisis recovery and rebuilding, and it could focus on issues of governance in addition to economic issues. It was committed to people, to the environment and to addressing the needs of the poor. It could work with the business community and centres of technological expertise all over the world, in order to promote access to necessary technology. It could also forge links with non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in order to make them stronger development partners. Lastly, it could provide leadership in addressing key macroeconomic forces, including trade, private investment and debt from the perspective of

(Mr. Speth, UNDP)

sustainable human development. Those capacities must be brought to a new level of integration and operational competence through a stronger, shared vision of the work of the Organization and increased funding. New patterns of governance would also be important.

Mr. MAKAREVYCH (Ukraine) said that the situation in the successor States to the former Soviet Union could not be compared to the situation in other former communist countries. The main difference was that, in the successor States to the Soviet Union, the concept of private ownership had been non-existent and the market mentality had been suppressed. Those States were also experiencing serious difficulties which were interfering with the implementation of their market reforms. His delegation fully agreed with the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the importance of finding the right blend of government direction of the economy and encouragement of private initiative (A/48/935, para. 50).

Modern Ukraine was situated in the centre of Europe but would not serve as a buffer zone between East and West. The signing in June of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States and Ukraine reflected his country's desire to be part of a united, indivisible Europe. Ukraine was the first country in the Commonwealth of Independent States to conclude such an agreement with the European Union. The document opened up opportunities for political and economic cooperation with the Western States. Ukraine also supported genuine integration of the Eastern States on a voluntary basis. Essential to that process would be the elimination of the highly centralized socialist economic system.

His delegation proposed the study of the issue of establishing the stabilization fund for the development of the economies in transition. It could be of genuine assistance to the States concerned. In the case of Ukraine, it could be effectively used for the formation of a stabilization fund for the new national currency; for the provision of financial assistance to relieve the energy crisis and for material and financial support for nuclear disarmament; for assistance in eliminating the effects of the Chernobyl disaster and increasing the safety of nuclear reactors; and for the development of the private sector. The leading international financial institutions could

(Mr. Makarevych, Ukraine)

participate in the establishment of such a fund. The realization of his delegation's proposal would make it possible for millions of people in Eastern Europe to overcome crisis situations and enjoy the rights and freedoms enshrined in international legal instruments. His delegation believed that assistance to the economies in transition was comparable to investing in the economies of developed countries.

Ukraine was prepared to play an active role in the economic and technical programmes conducted by the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system. In that connection, it was concerned that donor countries were too cautious in providing financial resources for the implementation of specific projects in Eastern Europe. That was not consistent with General Assembly resolution 48/181 on integration of the economies in transition into the world economy. The resolution called, inter alia, for the strengthening of the capacity of the United Nations system to conduct analytical activities with regard to the problems of the Eastern European States. His delegation also hoped that the international community would focus greater attention on improving market access for exports by countries with economies in transition, including Ukraine.

His delegation agreed with the statement contained in the report of the Secretary-General concerning the accelerated impact of negative shocks in an increasingly interdependent world. That should be taken into account in deciding measures of economic coercion against States in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. In the case of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), it was difficult to tell whether sanctions were directed at the State which violated international law or at neighbouring countries and the region as a whole. His delegation would elaborate on that point later on in the session.

Mr. Danque Rewaka (Gabon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Mr. GRANT (Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) noted that United Nations activities embraced all five fundamental pillars of development: peace, the economy, the environment, social justice and democracy. The fact that the task of development involved all those dimensions and not the economic dimension alone was a reflection of the times. Since the Second World

(Mr. Grant, UNICEF)

War, a tremendous revolution had taken place in the perception of the State's responsibility towards the average person, and far more had come to be expected from development.

There was a strong and growing consensus concerning the need to refocus on issues relating to poverty and human need. A number of initiatives had proved that that new consensus was valid and, above all, that commitment led to concrete results. Even the poorest countries were making progress in certain areas. Common as it was to speak of the lost decade of the 1980s, it was equally common to note major exceptions to negative experiences. One positive experience of the 1980s had been the World Summit for Children and the international support mobilized for its goals and strategies. The World Summit had been followed up by national programmes of action covering more than 90 per cent of the world's children. A country-by-country mid-decade review indicated that most countries would achieve the goals set for 1995. That augured well for what might be achieved by the year 2000.

Attached to his statement was the first page of the preliminary report on the world social situation, published in 1952. It was striking to note how far the international community had strayed from the goals contained in that visionary report. He was pleased to note that attention was again being focused on them.

Mr. TCHUROV (Bulgaria) said that new concepts and approaches to development should be based on a number of conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General. Those conclusions were, inter alia, that development could be sustained and sustainable only if none of its dimensions - economic, social, humanitarian and environmental - was overlooked; that there was no single formula for achieving economic growth; and that there was no substitute for the United Nations as a unique forum for addressing all elements of global development and providing policy guidance on the basis of a multidisciplinary and integrated approach. Democracy was also vital to the achievement of human-centred development.

Global peace and security would be jeopardized unless a more socially and economically balanced world was created.

(Mr. Tchurov, Bulgaria)

The imposition of sanctions decided by the United Nations Security Council often created considerable hardships for poor and neighbouring countries and hampered their development. That was particularly true in the case of countries with economies in transition and should be taken into account when trade and economic sanctions were imposed by the Security Council. Although there was wide agreement on how to reduce the impact of sanctions on third States, assistance offered thus far had not been sufficient to compensate for their losses.

Expectations concerning the use of the peace dividend for economic and social development had been too optimistic. In many ways, military expenditure all over the world had diminished the prospects for sustainable development. The proposals concerning arms trade restrictions would be effective only if they were implemented on an equal basis.

While Governments of countries in a state of transition recognized their primary responsibility for implementing reforms, the magnitude and complexity of those reforms called for international support. The United Nations and its specialized agencies should therefore continue to focus attention on all the problems of those countries. Referring to the critical level of foreign indebtedness and its effect on development, he expressed the hope that "debt-for-development" and "debt-for-nature" options would be utilized. His delegation shared the view that market access would give impetus to the expansion of international trade. The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the establishment of a world trade organization would help to increase economic growth throughout the world. Particular importance should be attached to ensuring market access to all countries, in compliance with the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Growing economic interdependence called for certain changes in the international "division of labour". The United Nations should provide policy guidance and advice to individual States; Member States should determine the scope of United Nations activities and seek to adapt them to new international realities. The ongoing process of the revitalization of the United Nations in

(Mr. Tchurov, Bulgaria)

the economic and social sectors should be based on more clearly defined priorities and more specifically targeted goals with clear time-limits.

Mr. Butler (Australia), President, resumed the Chair.

Mrs. SADIK (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund) noted some of the lessons which had been learned in the 50 years of the Organization's existence, in particular concerning the importance of the empowerment and participation of all individuals and of respect for fundamental human rights, and of women's central role in the development process.

The free-market economic system had proved to be extremely effective in many ways, particularly in directing the flow of investment to areas where it generated the highest returns. However, the market system had limitations as well. For example, those countries that did not have the human resources or environment to attract private flows were precisely the countries that needed them most.

For years, the Organization, had been a forum for the debate of controversial issues, such as population. It could now provide a common framework for implementing the recommendations and plans of actions formulated at a wide range of conferences - the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference on Women.

The role of the United Nations as a partner in the transfer of technology and expertise was vital, and would only increase with the development of South-South cooperation. Other assets of the Organization were its neutrality, universality and flexibility and its success in setting standards which could be followed at the national and international levels, (for example, responsiveness and transparency in human-centred development, accountability and responsibility in public investment). The United Nations system also had the ability to involve non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society in the work of development. That participatory approach characterized the preparatory process for the International Conference on Population and Development.

The specialized agencies of the United Nations system were widely recognized and respected and had set useful norms and standards. Many of them, particularly in the smaller, lesser known agencies, had excelled in research and disseminated their knowledge and expertise. Unfortunately, the work of some of

(Mr. Sadik, UNFPA)

those centres of excellence had been diluted by their constant search for funds. In her view, it should be the other way round: funds and sponsors should be pursuing those agencies which had done outstanding work.

With regard to the financing of development, the restructured governance of funds and programmes assumed a continuing, reliable flow of resources, which had not yet been guaranteed, however. One way to provide such a guarantee would be to channel all technical assistance and official development assistance funds through the United Nations system. The time had passed when bilateral donors needed to be concerned about geopolitical strategic investments.

The United Nations system must concentrate its financial support on a select number of countries, while maintaining universality in advocacy and technical and policy assistance. The Bretton Woods institutions, therefore, would not duplicate United Nations technical expertise; their role and that of international lending institutions would be to make use of the additional capacity created by technical assistance by enhancing the ability of countries to attract commercial investment. Such a flexible approach would meet the needs of countries at different stages of development requiring various kinds of support. It would permit countries to use both grant and loan funds. Technical assistance grants would decrease as human resource capacity improved and private resource flows increased.

The United Nations currently had at its disposal more experience, better technical resources and an increased awareness of how they could be used. The end of the arms race should provide sufficient financial resources for all the activities required within the United Nations system. That system represented a global mechanism that could also function at the national level and was uniquely placed to bring sustainable development closer to reality, if purposeful and decisive actions were taken.

Ms. BERTINI (Executive Director, World Food Programme) said that, within the wider context of the right to development, the "right to food" was among the most fundamental of human rights, a precondition for development and for life itself. The right to development was in serious jeopardy wherever and whenever the right to food could not be realized.

(Mr. Bertini, WFP)

As a result of a review by its governing body, the World Food Programme had refocused its efforts on three basic areas: using food to save lives in cases of emergency; using food aid to improve the quality of life for groups such as pregnant women, infants and children, for whom food was the most important form of intervention; and using food aid to help build assets, promote self-reliance and create sustainable systems through food-for-work programmes.

The World Food Programme had six suggestions to offer as components of any programme for effective development. First and foremost was the need for peace. Five years earlier, 60 per cent of its resources had been spent on development, but the lack of peace in the world had caused a shift to the point where almost 70 per cent of resources were currently being spent on emergency food relief. Second, emphasis should be placed on the needs of women and children. Women caring for their children and for their communities were making a crucial difference in keeping them alive, and a much stronger focus was needed on support for the role of women. Third, a strengthened commitment to the development of Africa was needed, and more extensive work should be done to ensure that systems were established on which to build sustainable programmes for Africa.

Fourth, development components should be included in emergency assistance programmes, while all development programmes should also contain emergency preparedness and disaster mitigation provisions. It would be a mistake to provide only emergency food and shelter, without training to build sustainable skills and communities; it would also be unwise to provide development resources without any thought for disaster mitigation. Fifth, the emphasis on coordination within the United Nations system, with the Bretton Woods institutions and also with bilateral aid, should be continued. It was essential that all elements of development in a particular country should be coordinated. That should be done in conjunction with the Government and in consultation and with the assistance of appropriate non-governmental organizations.

Finally, in the new world created by the fundamental changes in the international scene, a new view was needed, and development should be seen from current and future perspectives.

Mr. ROCHETTA (Italy), commenting on the five dimensions of development identified in the agenda for development, said that, although tragic situations of armed conflict had arisen in many areas in the recent past, the agenda for development reinvigorated the hope for peace by reaffirming the reasons for peaceful coexistence. It clearly indicated that development and peace were inextricably linked and demonstrated that the absence of development increased domestic and international tension.

With regard to the economy and human development, the greatest effort must be made to improve conditions in the poorest parts of the world, in the most critical areas of health, education and housing. The goals of the new development policy must not be economic growth for its own sake, but must involve local human resources in the productive process and in decision-making.

Like peace and the economy, the environment permeated every aspect of development. However, the link between environment and development involved more than the proper use of natural resources, since ecological balance was a vital component of human survival itself. If sustainable development was to succeed, it must become the concern and commitment not only of Governments, but of all segments of society. In that spirit, Italy had recently adopted a national plan for sustainable development to implement Agenda 21, and had fully supported the Global Conference on the Development of Small Island Developing States. In chairing the forthcoming Summit of the seven major industrialized nations, it would strive to consolidate the commitments made at the Rio Conference.

There could be no development without justice, and social development policies must be discussed at both the national and international level. Thus, his Government attached great importance to the results of the forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the fourth World Conference on Women. Furthermore, the ties binding democracy to development represented an important step forward in development policy. Sustainable human development could realize its goals only when internationally recognized democratic values were protected. By the same token, a true democracy would mature by assuring equitable development that included the people in the decision-making process.

(Mr. Rochetta, Italy)

In order to implement the agenda for development, the mechanisms for international economic cooperation must be strengthened. Coordination must become a consistent practice throughout the United Nations system. Italy had gained important experience in that area through the Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees in Central America (PRODERE), which had improved the living conditions of people in areas affected by civil war, but had also contributed to the consolidation of peace in Central America. It believed that similar initiatives on the PRODERE model were a means of obtaining appreciable results in development policies through a coordinated multi-agency programme.

The new Government of Italy was determined to make development assistance an even more effective instrument of international cooperation, and would continue its unswerving support for and commitment to the agenda for development.

The PRESIDENT said that the time had come to address the problems of development. In his agenda for development, the Secretary-General had provided an intellectual and moral perspective on the "new culture of development and the new morality". However, the agenda had not contained proposals, and the Secretary-General was requesting other parts of the United Nations system to provide them. The President of the General Assembly had called for a basic overhaul of the Organization's development machinery.

In the course of the exchange of views that would take place regarding the agenda for development, he urged Council members to bear in mind five basic perspectives. First, there was no need to repeat the generally accepted fact that the cold war had ended, that international relations had reached a turning-point, and that the world was increasingly interdependent. Second, the major problems being faced must be accurately identified. Third, after those problems had been identified, policy priorities must be selected and agreement reached at a political level. Fourth, based on those priorities, the international community must agree on actions to be taken and by whom, by what means and with what resources. Fifth, decisions must be made on the machinery by which that work would be carried out. It must also be determined whether there was any cooperation among members of the international community. The frequent stress on the need for greater cooperation could imply that none currently existed.

(The President)

A series of basic questions also needed to be addressed in the debate: What should be the unique role of the United Nations, in particular in policy-making and operational agencies? What should be the role of the international financial institutions? What should be the role of national official development assistance programmes? What role should the private sector play in the agenda for development? What capacity did United Nations policy-making bodies have to influence macroeconomic policy? Finally, it should be made clear what groups were being addressed and who were the targets of the actions being taken: Governments, corporations, the media, non-governmental organizations, academics or the people?

When those questions had been answered, that would lead to the determination of whether a new body, perhaps a council on human and social development, would be needed to carry out that work.

The fundamental question was whether the international community could or would do anything about the situation at all. There was a strong possibility that it might content itself with formulating decisions it could not implement. As the President of the General Assembly had pointed out, that could bring the United Nations into disrepute, if the outcome of the debate remained mere pieces of paper and no change resulted. Progress had indeed been made, and there were some encouraging signs, but it was important to acknowledge that the world faced a series of global and interlocking crises in such areas as poverty, the environment and the financial situation. His remarks were motivated by the belief that the United Nations could do something about those crises. He agreed with the UNDP Administrator that the United Nations had the unique ability to act in those fields. Political decision-making was paramount, however, and would be required to make the agenda for development a reality. The Economic and Social Council had a unique opportunity to determine its practical outcome.

Ms. DEGN (Denmark) said that she was glad that the preface to the 1952 report on the world social situation had been brought to the attention of the Council. It was shocking that the Council had been aware of all those problems 42 years earlier. That introduction could easily be used for the World Summit for Social Development in 1995. The United Nations must stop being a "talk shop", for action was urgently needed.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.14
26 August 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session for 1994

High level segment

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 14th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 29 June 1994, at 3 p.m.

President:	Mr. BUTLER	(Australia)
later:	Mr. TEJERA PARIS	(Venezuela)

CONTENTS

An agenda for development (continued)

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-954, 2 United Nations Plaza.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AN AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT (A/48/935) (continued)

Mr. ROCHAT (Secretary-General, International Civil Aviation Organization) said that an agenda for peaceful social and economic development must take into account all factors that had hampered development efforts in the past. One such factor involved the availability and allocation of funds necessary for development programmes. An expanded role for the Bretton Woods institutions and regional banks could generate additional funds, but it should be accompanied by increased cooperation with United Nations executing agencies in order to ensure more effective evaluation and implementation of development programmes. That was particularly important for the small, highly specialized and technical United Nations agencies, which in recent years had seen a significant reduction in funding and were being marginalized and bypassed by donors and larger agencies alike. The smaller agencies had played a very effective role through their normative functions and by providing technical assistance to States in the implementation of international technical standards. Their contribution would remain essential because they normally were best able to identify long-range global and regional plans and objectives in their fields, and they were familiar with the local needs of their member States.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) had identified the most important challenges facing civil aviation in the foreseeable future and had incorporated them into a Strategic Action Plan. Many aspects of that Plan should be incorporated in an agenda for development, since air transport contributed to global economic and social development and was a major factor in the development of tourism, communications and commerce. Air transport frequently was the sole link of developing countries with the outside world and between separate regions within their own territory. It was the fastest and most reliable means for dealing with emergencies and delivering relief supplies, and was a conduit for the transfer of technology through human resource development in its many advanced specialties. Air transport also was a major source of foreign currency revenue for developing countries.

(Mr. Rochat, ICAO)

Despite the essential role of civil aviation in the economic and social development of most developing countries, it often was overlooked or considered of marginal significance in the development effort. ICAO would be pleased to make its expertise and Strategic Action Plan available for the preparation of an agenda for development, a basic element of which should be an efficient world-wide air transport system.

Mr. MARUYAMA (Japan) said that the discussions should focus on concrete issues and action-oriented recommendations. The economies of some countries remained mired in stagnation because they had been unable effectively to utilize external assistance. Such countries must build the national capacity to formulate and manage economic policies and programmes that made the most effective use of external assistance.

In addition, official development assistance (ODA) must meet the needs of countries with widely differing circumstances, and programmes therefore must be tailored to each situation. His country had proposed a comprehensive approach whereby the provision of aid and measures to promote trade and investment were effectively combined, according to each country's level of development, so as to maximize the impact of ODA. The volume of ODA extended by the countries members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) had declined sharply in 1993. His country, the largest ODA donor, would continue to exert its best efforts to increase such assistance. However, since the prospects for an early economic recovery within the DAC countries themselves were not bright, the outlook for an increase in their ODA flows was likewise dim. It was therefore important to enhance the quality and impact of ODA to encourage donor countries to increase their assistance in the conviction that development assistance was effective and provided the soundest basis for peace.

Given the universality and neutrality of the United Nations, the Organization had a crucial role to play in achieving greater coherence, consensus and cooperation for development among all the parties concerned. It also was the most appropriate agency to address such cross-sectoral issues as the relationship between military expenditures or the arms trade and development. The United Nations should enhance its role as a forum for a wide-ranging development policy dialogue and should press forward with the implementation of actions on which agreement had been reached, as a way of

(Mr. Maruyama, Japan)

strengthening the trust of member countries in the Organization and renewing the commitment of aid-fatigued donors to the cause of development.

Mr. LAVROV (Russian Federation) said that in recent years it had been said that the socio-economic sector of the United Nations was being marginalized and that the confrontation of the "cold war" era had been a far more powerful factor for development assistance than the current situation. That logic must be rejected; despite the difficulties of the current period, it had to be recalled that in the era of confrontation development assistance had largely been an instrument of ideological warfare, disregarding the human factor of development. The world community must now create new mechanisms for resolving the problems of development on the basis of equal partnership and of sharing the costs and benefits of cooperation. The agenda for development must embody a new concept of development, taking into account social, demographic, humanitarian and environmental factors. It must also provide practical guidelines in respect of the priorities of the United Nations and instruments to achieve those priorities, taking into account the specific conditions of different groups of countries; modalities for the cooperation of the United Nations with multilateral monetary, financial and trade institutions and also with regional economic organizations; and ways of mobilizing financial resources and improving structures and mechanisms.

It was important that there should be balance between the interests of sovereign States and those of non-State actors in international economic relations. While the specific needs of different groups of countries must be taken into account, a simplistic ideological geography dividing the world into North and South or East and West should be avoided; real life was infinitely more diverse, and that diversity must be reflected in the agenda. A rational division of work between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and other multilateral and regional organizations and non-governmental associations was of particular significance. The United Nations, on the basis of its comparative advantages, could concentrate on operational activities, environmental protection, emergency humanitarian assistance, population problems, and the political coordination of the agenda for development.

The agenda for development would be viable only if it adequately reflected the realities of the end of the current century. Development required a harmonious combination of economic growth with social stability, protection of

(Mr. Lavrov, Russian Federation)

the environment and the full realization of human potential. It presupposed the protection of human rights, political and economic freedom and the settlement of social, ethnic and ethical problems. The "agenda for people" should be an integral part of the agenda for development.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that statements by representatives of the regional economic commissions were available in the meeting room.

Mr. SUCHARIPA (Observer for Austria) said that development policies should be human-centred and should focus on broadening the range of choices relating to access to income and employment opportunities, education and health, the physical environment, political decision-making, human rights and economic and political freedoms. Democracy and peace were both a precondition for development and its essential outcome.

His delegation believed that the five dimensions of development outlined in the report by the Secretary-General (A/48/935) provided the foundation for action to achieve sustainable human-centred development. That was also the goal of a number of recent and upcoming global conferences.

His country's bilateral and multilateral cooperation programme sought to foster global human security through poverty alleviation, human resources development, environmental protection and efforts to enhance the access of women to equal participation in economic and social development. Full participation by non-governmental organizations was crucial for the effective implementation of policies. His country provided substantial support to the countries in transition and had increased its development assistance activities, particularly in Africa. As a member of the European Union, his country would be able to enhance such cooperation.

Noting that there was considerable concern that the United Nations could not adequately respond to development needs, he stressed the importance of improving cooperation between the United Nations and other international organizations on development issues, particularly at the operational level. While acknowledging the validity of some of the concerns expressed regarding the report by the Secretary-General, he noted that it was intended as a starting point for a discussion of a global agenda to provide a comprehensive approach by all partners in the development process. The agenda must reflect important changes that had occurred in recent years and solutions must be tailored to both regional and local conditions.

Mr. BRIOSA E GALA (Portugal) said that his delegation fully agreed with the statement made by the representative of Greece on behalf of the countries which were Members of the European Union. It also looked forward to the report of the Secretary-General to be based on the recent World Hearings on Development. In the context of new political and economic realities, the relevance of conclusions reached at earlier conferences should be borne in mind. Development must be viewed as a people-centred process that required popular participation in a democratic system and respect for human rights. Operative concepts identified at earlier conferences should be preserved, and the upcoming International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women would provide unique opportunities to move development forward.

His delegation fully supported the concept of the five dimensions for development outlined in the Secretary-General's report, and he underscored the importance of community participation in the development process. The recent Fourth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government had made a number of important recommendations to enhance development efforts.

The international community should accord top priority to eradicating poverty in Africa, particularly in the least developed countries. Efforts should focus on ending wars on that continent and on providing the required humanitarian aid. In the long run, the international community must address Africa's structural problems and provide technical assistance and the means for economic rehabilitation and reconstruction, thus paving the way for sustainable economic growth. His Government actively supported the peace process in Angola and Mozambique, and had recently launched a major initiative to promote basic education and health-care projects in those countries. It also supported the work of non-governmental organizations and humanitarian assistance programmes there. He called upon the international community to provide all possible support for those efforts.

His Government welcomed with great satisfaction the recent developments in South Africa, which no doubt would contribute to peace, stability and development in southern Africa.

As the members of the international community joined forces to promote development, they should bear in mind the importance of setting priorities,

(Mr. Briosa e Gala, Portugal)

making appropriate use of existing resources, ensuring coordination and maximizing human resources and community involvement. Poverty alleviation must remain a permanent concern. New strategies should be devised to preserve a balance between environment and development by utilizing available resources to create a direct link between public health, employment, trade and the environment within the framework of local, regional and international institutions.

The effective implementation of an agenda for development required a more collaborative and integrated approach to development, particularly at the field level. The United Nations Development Programme had an important role to play in that regard, and he urged improved coordination of multilateral and bilateral assistance.

Mr. WALZER (United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees) said that development and refugee concerns were closely related. The root causes of displacement were varied and complex. Very often lack of development and high population growth led to instability. Ethnic tensions and communal violence often were sparked by poverty, population growth and economic and social inequities, all of which contributed to refugee flows. However, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had only a limited ability to address the root causes of refugee problems. It could alert its colleagues in the development field to potential problems. Development efforts should target not only the poorest of the poor, but also, those countries which were at risk of breaking down. When development failed, humanitarian action was necessary, and in recent years UNHCR had responded to unprecedented refugee flows and population displacements in many parts of the world. In most cases refugees were from, and found asylum in, developing countries. The international community must continue to provide financial and moral support to countries which absorbed refugees.

He described a number of recent UNHCR repatriation efforts and noted that peace alone was not enough for refugees to return to their homes and reintegrate there. If returnees could not sustain themselves, they might be forced once again to cross borders. They might also join the stream of rural to urban migration, compounding one of the most serious problems facing developing countries. If repatriation was to endure, the areas to which displaced persons returned required sustainable development, to which end immediate intervention

(Mr. Walzer)

was crucial. To assist in bridging the gap between humanitarian relief and rehabilitation, UNHCR had pioneered the use of small-scale community-based projects known as Quick Impact Projects. Those projects avoided artificial distinctions between returning refugees, internally displaced persons and other needy members of the local population and, while aimed at promoting self-sufficiency, they also helped restore harmony in divided communities.

If further tragedies were to be averted and existing crises resolved, humanitarian action and development initiatives must be better synchronized and relief and development efforts should, wherever possible, be carried out simultaneously. The affected people and their Governments should be actively involved. The challenge was to continue to encourage progress even in unstable environments and to invest earlier in the economic recovery that was so vital to the consolidation of political reconciliation. To that end, UNHCR was redoubling its efforts to strengthen its partnerships with key development agencies and forge new alliances with the Bretton Woods institutions, regional development banks and non-governmental organizations. It urged Governments to vigorously support post-conflict recovery and rehabilitation not only as a viable solution to the refugee crisis, but also as an investment in regional and global security.

Mr. REMIREZ DE ESTENOZ BARCIELA (Cuba) said that the first priority of the United Nations must be to promote the development of the under-developed countries. Peace was clearly an essential prerequisite for development; however, without integral, just and equitable economic and social development, it would never be possible to achieve international peace and stability. It must be recognized that the goal of harmonious and equitable development for mankind had yet to be achieved. The gap between rich and poor countries had continued to widen, and conditions were growing ever more difficult for the less developed nations; the cost of new technologies made development possibilities even more remote. At the same time, environmental pollution and the shortage of natural resources were becoming critical. The solution of environmental problems did not depend on the development model of the poor countries, but on a radical change in patterns of consumption in the rich countries, because it was that wealth that had depleted the limited resources which belonged to all mankind, triggering an environmental crisis which posed a real threat to the future of the entire human species.

(Mr. Remirez de Estenoz Barciela, Cuba)

It was therefore essential that the United Nations should accord priority to development, which was the real cause of the growing ethnic, religious, political and territorial conflicts. The end of the cold war had not so far led to any improvement for the millions of people in poor countries and in the regions torn apart by conflicts. Even in 1993, millions of dollars had been spent on the arms race; it was senseless to waste money fighting the poor, the hungry and the illiterate instead of using it to eradicate poverty, hunger and illiteracy.

Mr. TEJERA PARIS (Venezuela) said that, in order to save time, he would refer to just two points in his prepared statement. Regarding the crucial role of international financial institutions, he said it was clear that coordination between the United Nations and those institutions needed to be reviewed so as to ensure coherence of approaches and priorities in respect of development. Without prejudice to the independence of the decision-making process of those institutions, there were significant possibilities for consultation and coordination between them and the United Nations. The agreements between the United Nations and the institutions should not be regarded as a barrier to that process. As early as 1947, when those agreements had been approved, Venezuela had expressed reservations about their scope. He supported the President's efforts to make best possible use of the time available and those efforts could be emulated in the organization of work at other meetings, for example preparations for the World Social Summit. If the number of subjects were reduced to a manageable level, and prepared ahead of time, the heads of State would be able to have a real dialogue and seek the solutions that were required, instead of merely reading out prepared statements.

Mr. ROWE (Australia) said that investment in people was increasingly recognized as essential to achieving sustainable development and peace. Future development efforts must be focused on people, and in particular the millions of people in developing countries who lived in poverty. An agenda for development should serve as a link between the various aspects of the development mandate of the United Nations. To be effective, it must build on the agreements reached at the relevant global conferences held recently or to be held in the future. Trade also played a critical role; it was recognized in the report that countries which pursued appropriate policies were most likely to derive full

(Mr. Rowe, Australia)

benefits from the recent conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. His delegation also supported the call for an increasingly productive relationship of consultations and cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations.

The agenda for development did not adequately address some important areas of concern: the basic role of women in development; the role of indigenous peoples; and the importance of individual and collective human rights, including the linkage between the agenda for development and the right to development.

A key question was the role played by global multilateral agencies, in particular the United Nations and its agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions. The United Nations agencies had relatively few financial resources at their disposal, but could play a catalytic role. However, old understandings about the comparative advantage of those agencies could be called into question unless they reinvigorated their approach. The agenda for development therefore needed to consider more clearly the role of the United Nations in development and to make recommendations on some of the constraints and on opportunities for a sharper focus on development by the United Nations. Moreover, further consideration needed to be given to how the Council could give greater effect to its role under General Assembly resolution 48/162. A revitalized Council could make a significant contribution not only to establishing greater policy coherence and coordination within the United Nations system as a whole but also to the effective implementation of the new agenda for development.

Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that peace and development were indivisible; there could be no economic growth without peace and democracy, and peace could not prevail without a democratic system. Human rights and fundamental freedoms could not be enjoyed in the absence of democracy. A global development agenda required global peace and security. It should be based upon a broad integrated approach aimed at sustainable social and economic development as enshrined in Agenda 21.

Development should involve grass-roots participation and empowerment of the people. It was not enough for people to enjoy freedom and peace; they must also enjoy economic opportunities. The success of economic growth and human development was a direct result of education, science and technology, equality between women and men and planning and strong motivation. Israel's rapid

(Mr. Eliashiv, Israel)

economic development had been an integral element of its concentration on social progress, and had been facilitated by a strong infrastructure built around Israel's universities and research institutions and the development of science and technology.

International cooperation for development was vital; it was essential not only to increase joint endeavours, but also to draw appropriate conclusions from past experience and failures. The gap between rich and poor nations was a greater threat to universal peace than any threat arising from environmental neglect. A global and integrated approach to development should encompass human development, protection of the environment, social and demographic problems, health and education for all, transfer of technology, eradication of poverty as well as the struggle against drug abuse and other plagues. The implementation of Agenda 21 opened new vistas for attaining the objectives of sustainable development.

Regional cooperation was essential to economic progress. The agreements signed by Israel with the Palestine Liberation Organization and with Jordan were landmarks in the process of achieving peace in the Middle East. The Middle East held tremendous potential for economic and social development; economic cooperation in the Middle East would serve not only the interests of the countries in the region but also the entire world.

What was needed now was the political will to transform words into an action-oriented agenda for development.

Ms. MAIR (Jamaica) said that mankind could create a better world only if it addressed the current extraordinary global development crisis. Solutions must be global and provide for the coordinated response of North and South, developed and developing nations, national Governments and civil society. Globalization not only defined the nature of the challenge facing the international community, it also provided answers to the equitable sharing of technology, science, trade, finance, culture and information.

The United Nations had the prime responsibility for establishing the bases for such a genuinely global, equitable and participatory agenda. In that connection, the agenda for development provided a useful foundation on which to construct such a development strategy. The current wide-ranging critique of the United Nations system presented a timely opportunity for relevant change. The restructuring of the United Nations system was aimed at equipping the

(Ms. Mair, Jamaica)

Organization to meet current and future challenges more effectively. The agenda for development promised to be a key component of an evolving, self-critical United Nations and should restore to the Organization its capacity to coordinate the activities of the various agencies of the system, including regional organizations, in a manner beneficial to its members. Coordination of development policy within the system, including meaningful dialogue and joint planning with the Bretton Woods institutions, were essential to the promotion of the global goals of development.

Current efforts to construct an agenda for development, however, were not being undertaken in a vacuum. A number of consensus agreements, including those relating to the International Development Strategy, the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, Agenda 21 and the related instruments in the field of the environment, continued to be relevant. The agenda for development should not reinvent the wheel but rather build upon those earlier agreements and take account of those likely to result from future United Nations conferences. The results of those conferences could contribute to an overall policy framework for a balanced and action-oriented approach to development. The challenge therefore was to mobilize the requisite political will for their implementation.

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations would provide members with an opportunity not only to assess the achievements of the Organization but also to chart its future course. The adoption of an agenda for development, in that context, assumed even greater significance, since it could be considered the blueprint for the Organization's fulfilment of its original mandate for development.

Mr. ACHARYA (Observer for Nepal) said that, despite the implementation of three International Development Strategies, the economic and social situation of most developing countries remained bleak and some countries had voiced the need for a new development initiative. In that connection, the report of the Secretary-General on an agenda for development provided input for an appropriate adjustment to existing development programmes aimed at coping with the new economic and social challenges. His delegation believed that all the elements necessary for development already existed. There was no alternative to the United Nations in the field of development, especially in light of the new vision of development which was inextricably linked with peace and security. Nevertheless, there was need for closer cooperation and coordination of

(Mr. Acharya, Observer, Nepal)

operational activities between the Organization and the Bretton Woods institutions.

The rapidly emerging consensus on human-centred development which required that emphasis be placed on education for sustainable development and the equally important need to attain economic growth as the engine of progress presented a dilemma to most developing countries. The only way to resolve the resource constraints of the developing countries was by providing new and additional financial resources. The least developed countries, in particular, lacked even basic physical infrastructure and adequate mechanisms to ensure the successful implementation of free-market economies. Many of them had embarked on privatization programmes while others were still struggling to safeguard nascent democracies. The export base of the least developed countries, however, was generally very weak and their problems were different from those faced by other developing countries.

The agenda for development should be flexible enough to permit formulation of programmes on a country-specific basis. While it might be argued that structural adjustment programmes had succeeded in boosting economic growth in the emerging economies of Asia, those same programmes had failed to attract any significant direct foreign investment to the least developed countries. He therefore welcomed the current discussion of social safety nets built into structural adjustment programmes. It was clear that no single model was applicable to all countries. The needs of developing countries varied widely depending on the state of their infrastructure, technology and national capacities. The agenda for development could not succeed if it did not have the capacity to resolve the development problems of all countries, particularly those of the least developed among them.

Mr. SYCHOU (Belarus) said that the renunciation of global ideological and military confrontation encouraged hopes for a better future for all nations and peoples but at the same time gave rise to new problems and difficulties, especially for the poorest countries and the countries in transition. There was therefore a need for a new vision of development as a fundamental and inalienable human right and the most solid basis for peace. His delegation agreed that a new global consensus on the issues of development needed to be achieved as soon as possible.

(Mr. Sychou, Belarus)

Peace and security were undoubtedly one of the most important dimensions of development. The fostering of the "culture of peace" must be accompanied by universal condemnation and rejection of the "culture of war". It was generally recognized that in order to ensure stable development, favourable internal and external conditions were needed. His delegation agreed with the need for a strong national policy, pragmatic approaches and an active role of the State in those spheres of the economy where the market could not provide answers to all questions.

In the report of the Secretary-General, democracy was acknowledged as the only reliable way of improving the system of social management. The road to democracy was not easy. Not all countries could have identical levels of development or democracy. It was important that democracy, as one of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, should prevail in the family of nations and that each nation should have the right to express its opinion and participate in the work of the Organization.

His delegation supported the view that every individual in the world should benefit from development, and that a paradigm of development was needed which would encompass the whole spectrum of human activity.

At the same time, it felt that the agenda for development was written in excessively general terms and lacked specific and pragmatic proposals. The agenda for development did not fully reflect the broad diversity characterizing not only developing countries but also more developed States, including countries in transition. It should more clearly define the specific role of United Nations bodies, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization. A new format for international political dialogue was needed in that respect.

Mr. CALOVSKI (Observer for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that mankind was approaching the dawn of the twenty-first century with a sense of hope and at the same time a feeling of pessimism about its ability to solve the many problems which many countries faced in their bilateral relations and the major problems on the current international agenda. It would be difficult to achieve sustainable development in an international context that was so rife with problems. Central to the agenda for development, therefore, should be a commitment on the part of all States to contribute to the settlement of current international conflicts which were threatening international peace

(Mr. Calovski, Observer, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

and security. Peace should be viewed as the foundation for development and all necessary efforts must be made to eliminate obstacles to peace and the development of good neighbourly relations. In that context, the situation of the Republic of Macedonia was illustrative. His country was a landlocked, developing European country which was not lacking in knowledge of how to develop itself or in the political resolve of its population to take an active and meaningful part in national development efforts. Unfortunately, it was facing external obstacles which it could not overcome on its own. Those difficulties were attributable to the decision which the Government of Greece had adopted on 16 February 1994 and which constituted open interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Macedonia aimed at undermining its development and stability. Faced with such an unprecedented breach of international law and of the Charter, it was the duty of the Council to request the Government of Greece to annul its decision. The right of landlocked countries to access to the sea must be observed and the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General should all make sure that that right was honoured by all States.

Mr. TEJERA PARIS (Venezuela) took the Chair.

Mr. KABBAJ (Observer for Morocco) said that the democratic, economic, social, ecological and participatory aspects of development required the sustained implementation of a set of coherent policies as well as close cooperation between the public and private sectors. The new concepts of human security and global partnership were becoming the cornerstone of national strategies for sustainable development, re-energized international cooperation and the overall management of world affairs based on the rule of law, both domestically and internationally.

Morocco's policies were consistent with the concepts outlined in the agenda for development. Since independence, those policies had been geared towards the promotion of economic liberalism and democratic pluralism and had laid the foundations of a civil society governed by the rule of law. The country's successful structural adjustment programme had restored macroeconomic balance and achieved major structural reforms, ushering in a period of sustained economic growth.

(Mr. Kabbaj, Observer, Morocco)

The agenda for development reflected the consensus regarding the multifaceted nature of development and recognized that development could not be achieved simply by copying an imported model of production and consumption. In order for the agenda to be used as a model for universal development, new policies and institutional arrangements must be elaborated in order to tailor the means to the ends. The political recommendations contained in the agenda should be translated into operational activities and specific programmes of action for implementation within reasonable time-frames.

The developing world faced problems of lack of resources, widespread structural unemployment, significant backwardness in the areas of health, education, equality, infrastructure and protection of the environment. The problem of the lack of resources was compounded by the unprecedented slump in commodity prices, the foreign debt crisis, lack of access to technology and restrictive trade practices.

The majority of developing countries had embarked upon courageous economic restructuring programmes which had been undertaken in an unfavourable international climate characterized by a contraction in official development assistance and the erection of non-tariff barriers to exports of those products in which the developing countries had a comparative advantage, while private investment flows failed to compensate for the negative transfers of resources to bilateral and multilateral creditors. Even those countries which had implemented successful structural adjustment programmes needed time to establish their credibility on the financial markets and to intervene on those markets with more sophisticated financial instruments. All of those realities must be taken into account in the conception and execution of the agenda for development if the international community wished to avoid the same disappointing results as those of the previous four United Nations Development Decades.

Experience had shown that, where there was real political will, much could be achieved through multilateral efforts, as illustrated by the recent conclusions of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. He recalled that the Moroccan Head of State had called for the implementation of a Marshall Plan for Africa in order to reduce the immense poverty of that continent, and had proposed the creation of a new mechanism for international negotiations aimed at ensuring closer cooperation between the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the recently established World Trade

(Mr. Kabbaj, Observer, Morocco)

Organization. He appealed to the international community to consider those proposals at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly as part of its consideration of the item on an agenda for development.

Mr. DE ROJAS (Observer for the Latin American Economic System) said that the agenda for development should constitute a comprehensive programme of action, encompassing interrelated areas within each of the five pillars identified by the Secretary-General. The agenda correctly included many of the social, political and cultural aspects of development, since the orthodox free-market development models of previous years had failed to achieve economic liberalization and growth together with equity, social justice and participation. One should not be deluded, however, into thinking that dealing with the symptoms of underdevelopment, namely, poverty, environmental degradation, the treatment of women, and poor governance, would eliminate the problem. There was need to address the root causes of underdevelopment, which included worsening terms of trade, lack of effective access to markets, unfulfilled official development assistance commitments, the debt problem, limited access to technology, and inequitable participation in decision-making.

His delegation agreed on the need to fundamentally restructure the United Nations system to enable it to play its proper role in development and international economic cooperation. That goal could only be achieved by a political consensus to effectively restore to the United Nations responsibility for coordinating intersectoral policies and by involving all the bodies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in a more organic configuration where functions and responsibilities would be clearly assigned according to comparative advantage and where a minimum of consistency and coherence would be assured. Although many had called for the creation of a new organ, such as an economic security council, in order to achieve that goal, the possibility of a profound transformation of the Economic and Social Council itself should not be discarded. That decision should be an integral part of a political agreement to bring to the United Nations the central focus of international economic discussion and action. Indeed, apart from the many other purposes which had been served, it could become the much desired permanent forum for North-South dialogue.

As the Organization prepared to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary, it should not lose sight of the need to build a moral and ethical perspective of

(Mr. De Rojas)

development into its discussions and agreements. Without development there could be no lasting peace and security; development was therefore in the enlightened self-interest of all countries. It must also be remembered that there were higher calls for international social justice and human solidarity which transcended considerations of "mutual benefit" and "common interest".

Mr. YOO (Republic of Korea) said that development was one of the most critical tasks facing the international community as it sought to address socio-economic difficulties and lay the foundation for peace. Development and peace were inextricably linked and must be pursued in tandem if a stable world was to be achieved. Development was a process of self-reliant growth which enabled human beings to realize their full potential, build self-confidence and lead lives of dignity and accomplishment. In order to achieve that goal, it was necessary to eradicate poverty, secure equitable income distribution and enhance social structures and institutions. Those universally shared objectives could not be confined to national borders.

Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on an agenda for development (A/48/935), his delegation was of the view that African countries should be accorded special consideration. Also, given their fundamental role in development, science and technology should be included in the agenda for development. Moreover, although individual countries must bear primary responsibility, national efforts must be buttressed by international cooperation, including South-South cooperation.

For its part, the United Nations must adopt a new approach in order to effectively respond to the changing needs and requirements of developing countries. It alone, through the legitimacy provided by the Charter and by its universal membership, was equipped to cope with the twin needs of peace and development in a balanced way. It alone possessed the organizational skills and expertise to deal with the broad range of complex issues involved in development. Given the rapidly changing world environment, however, a realistic assessment of the limitations of the United Nations must be made. In that connection, the proposal to establish an economic security council was worthy of further consideration. In terms of organizational efficiency, however, he wondered whether it was worth establishing an entirely new organization or whether the time might not be better spent discussing the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. Clearly, what was needed was a forum for real

(Mr. Yoo, Republic of Korea)

dialogue between developing and developed countries, whether that meant a restructured Council or an entirely new one. If managed with efficiency and confidence, the United Nations was the best available instrument for handling the world situation with a reasonable expectation of success.

Mr. AL-ANANI (Observer for Jordan) said that the agenda for development must acknowledge the efforts of countries which were experiencing short-term difficulties as a result of their long-term policy objectives. In that connection, he proposed the adoption of objective evaluation criteria which could be used to judge countries on their performance in the area of sustainable development. Such criteria could include progress on human rights, structural adjustment and environmental protection. Countries with good records should be encouraged and helped. The agenda for development should contain a plan for addressing the problem of foreign debt through rescheduling, debt write-off and enhanced official development assistance. A financial package was needed to finance multinational projects likely to enhance regional peace and cooperation. As it would not be easy to fulfil the requirements of an open economy, free trade, enhanced private-sector involvement and a diminished role of the State, special arrangements must be made to help countries overcome the problems which those tasks entailed. Thus far, many countries which embarked upon a free economy approach did so under pressure to repay their debts or seek foreign assistance; a positive incentive plan should be developed instead.

Ms. CHINERY-HESSE (Deputy Director-General, International Labour Organization) said that the employment situation in most countries was worsening and that deepening youth unemployment, increased job insecurity and growing social exclusion were some of the major manifestations of that global employment crisis. The agenda for development must seek to reverse that trend. Her organization viewed productive employment as the key to combating poverty and social exclusion. Governments must ensure that growth led to the creation of jobs in conditions which respected the dignity and basic rights of workers. While the process of liberalization offered possibilities of employment creation and poverty alleviation, it did not guarantee greater social justice. Indeed, there was a serious risk that entire nations and social groups would become increasingly marginalized. There was therefore an urgent need for an international regulatory machinery to deal with social and labour issues in order to ensure both economic and social security. That endeavour could be

(Ms. Chinery-Hesse, ILO)

facilitated by a permanent dialogue between international financial, economic and commercial institutions and institutions responsible for social welfare such as ILO. The World Summit for Social Development was a critical opportunity for mobilizing action in the fight against unemployment, poverty and social exclusion and for creating conditions for employment growth and greater social justice world wide.

Mr. Butler (President) resumed the Chair.

Mr. SY (Observer for the Organization of African Unity) said that, in reviewing the status of development efforts in connection with the consideration of the agenda for development, attention should focus on the basic issues that were critical to the stimulation of economic growth and development in those regions of the world that had been marginalized as a result of the process of globalization. The economic reforms of African countries must be supported by a favourable international environment marked by higher commodity prices and better access for African products to the markets of industrialized countries. The outcome of the Uruguay Round would pose problems for Africa's trade in terms of higher prices for imported food, those problems should be addressed through special measures such as additional preferential trade treatment. The decline in foreign investment in Africa must be reversed and the agenda should call for an increase in foreign investments in order to promote development in African countries. African countries should be given greater access to technology; indeed, transfer of technology should be one of the central elements of the agenda for development. Unless financial flows were significantly boosted, economic recovery and growth in Africa could remain elusive. Further measures, including debt write-offs, should be taken to end the debt crisis of the heavily indebted African countries. Removal of the external debt overhang would release resources for economic growth and development in Africa. The agenda for development should also call for increased technical and financial assistance by international financial institutions to help complement the political and economic commitment of African countries under regional economic integration arrangements.

Mr. MASUKU (Swaziland) said that the agenda for development should take into account the special circumstances prevailing in developing countries and seek to improve the terms of trade of African countries. It should also facilitate greater access of African products to the developed markets in order

(Mr. Masuku, Switzerland)

to enable African countries to increase their foreign exchange earnings. Furthermore, the agenda should facilitate an increase in development aid flows and technology transfer to Africa and contain measures to deal with the recurring drought problems, the negative effects of free trade in the short term, as well as measures to alleviate the debt burden. It should also seriously seek to eradicate drug abuse, facilitate arms control and address the problem of HIV/AIDS.

Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made earlier in the debate by the representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and with the statement on the same subject that had been made at the meeting held to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Group's establishment.

The debate concerning an agenda for development must avoid futile philosophical speculation on the nature of development and analysis of its current status and the problems linked with it and must focus instead on clearly defined and action-oriented recommendations.

A genuine international partnership must be created based on the right to development and the responsibility to undertake political and economic reform and on the corresponding responsibility of developed countries to support such development by the mobilization of adequate resources and the transfer of technology. That partnership could not be established while a limited number of developed countries continued to monopolize the making of decisions that affected the international economic situation and had an adverse impact on the developing countries. An international climate conducive to development required greater transparency and democracy in the decision-making process.

The mobilization of the necessary financial resources remained the core issue of development. The gap between the funds needed to achieve sustainable development and the financial resources made available through bilateral and multilateral channels continued to widen. The ability of the developing countries to meet commitments arising out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the major conferences to be held in 1995 and 1997 would depend on the success of the international community in mobilizing the necessary financial resources. It was the basic responsibility of the advanced industrialized countries to ensure that that was done.

(Mr. Elaraby, Egypt)

There was an organic link between peacemaking and the achievement of sustainable development, and there must therefore be the same degree of public, parliamentary and government support in the industrialized countries for increased assistance to development as was from time to time in evidence for peace-keeping operations and humanitarian assistance. The Department of Public Information must therefore accord the same coverage and attention to an agenda for development as it had to "An Agenda for Peace".

Mr. NORDMANN (Observer for Switzerland) said that the increasing number of conflicts world wide had enhanced the importance of emergency humanitarian assistance. While the use of force to deliver humanitarian assistance was a proper subject for discussion, it was clear that such assistance should not cut too much into the resources earmarked for financing long-term development policies, since the latter was the only way to eliminate the root causes of conflicts. It was necessary to be able to move swiftly from the emergency assistance stage to the long-term development policy stage in order to overcome the contradiction between those two forms of intervention. The United Nations must clarify the principles of its action in that regard for the agenda contained little information on the subject. Furthermore, development policies must be tailored to reality and to the power struggle that was often evident in relations between North and South. The institutional framework for the realization of the agenda for development could only be provided by a thorough reform of the United Nations system and of its relations with other institutions, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions. While the United Nations should strengthen its role as a global forum for political, economic and social questions, it should also increase its efficiency.

Mr. CAMBISTIS (Greece), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that by referring to his country as the Republic of Macedonia, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had violated the provisions of paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 817 (1993). As the difference over the name of that State had not yet been settled, it should be known as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The measures that Greece had taken in February 1994 stemmed from an eminently political difference which would be taken up by the competent United Nations forum. The current meeting

(Mr. Cambistis, Greece)

was not the appropriate forum for his delegation to reply to the inaccuracies in the statement of the delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.